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SAVVY TIMES™

Welcome to the Journey! Issue 11, April 2006



Parelli International Savvy Club Magazine



Parelli Fluidity—Hill Therapy

Luca Moneta:
In Love with Horses Again

Bringing Joy to the
Forgotten Children of Africa

Summer of Opportunity



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SAVVY TIMES™

Parelli International Savvy Club™ Magazine

Issue 11, April 2006

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Pat Parelli rides his mare, Magic, while driving his stallion, Casper, using two 22-foot Lines for communication.



Dear Friends

It's been a very full three months with some especially great highlights such as Pat becoming a grandpa, our partner's wedding and five days with dressage master Walter Zettl.

Now for more detail and more very cool things...

GRANDPA PAT!

While performing in front of almost 3,000 people during our tour stop December 2005 in Ocala, Pat was informed that he had become a grandpa. Nothing in this world could have made him beam more brightly. Two days later he and Caton were winging their way to California to see Pat's daughter Marlene, husband

One of the things we most admire about Mark is how focused he is on what he loves in life. It makes him very clear both in business and in his personal life, and best of all he has a grand time and a healthy perspective when things get challenging in a young and growing business like ours. He's helped us in so many ways not the least of which is being enabled and encouraged to have more time for ourselves to recharge our batteries... it's already led to a great deal of new creativity for the future.

WALTER ZETTL ALL TO OURSELVES

When Pat said, "I think I've found a new mentor, another Tom." He got my full attention. We met Walter for the first time just over a year ago when Karen Rohlf rode with him at a clinic here in Ocala, and we'd already been watching his videos whom a friend, Susannah Cord, had given me. Surprise, surprise... the title of the video/DVD

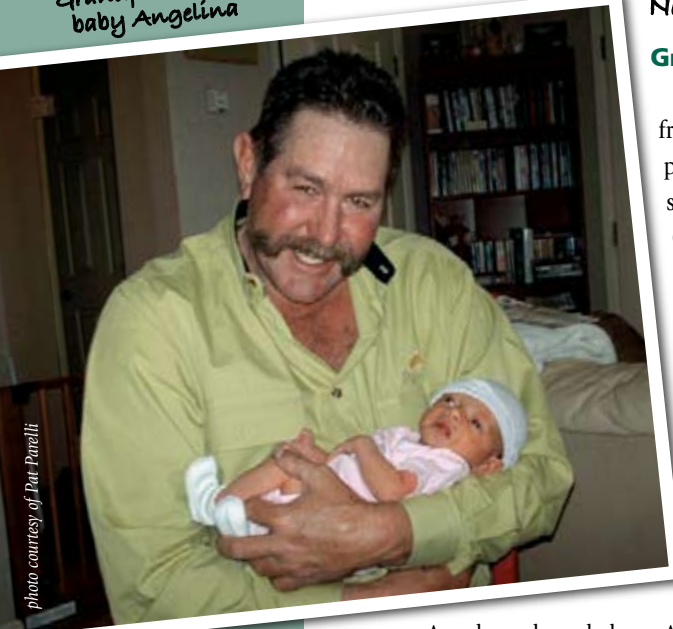
series is "A Matter Of Trust," quite a different title for dressage don't you think?

The first thing we were struck by was his twinkling eyes and obvious passion for what he was teaching. Karen was riding our Andalusian/Thoroughbred mare "River" and when at one point she spooked and then whinnied for her friends, Walter cooed over the microphone, "Don't worry, it's alright. Never punish a horse for this, it's their nature and you have to understand that." I knew he was not normal in his field. Walter is first and foremost truly a horse lover who understands the nature of horses and how to teach them in

a way that inspires confidence and loads of try.

Last summer, Susannah was with us in Pagosa and she said she was organizing an English meets Western dressage clinic with Walter Zettl. Reining great Craig Johnson was supporting her in it, and we said we would love to be involved, making it an English/Natural/Western clinic! Walter really liked the idea and so it was announced creating a huge stir on the dressage bulletin boards and chat rooms on the internet. "How can you have the Parelli's there? Linda publicly talks about how she hates dressage!" To which Walter replied... "I hate dressage too!"

Grandpa Pat with baby Angelina



Angelo and newly born Angelina Estelle. I think the photo says it all. Pat just loves children and babies, and as so many grandparents have told us before, you think having kids is great... just wait until you're a grandpa! As for me, someone had to stay home and run the camp.

MARK & LESLIE'S WEDDING

I don't think I've seen anyone more excited about getting married than our partner, Parelli President Mark Weiler at his wedding to Leslie Tottenhoff in January here in Ocala. He never

stopped smiling! Leslie of course looked gorgeous and we danced the night away surrounded by friends, family and most of our staff, many who came all the way from Pagosa Springs. Mark met Leslie three years ago at our tour event in Daytona!

Two of our top managers, Tour Director Sue Shoemark and Parelli Center Dean Neil Pye were married in Sydney, Australia on exactly the same day! So Pat and I cut a cake in honor of them during Mark and Leslie's celebration.

Neil and Sue's wedding

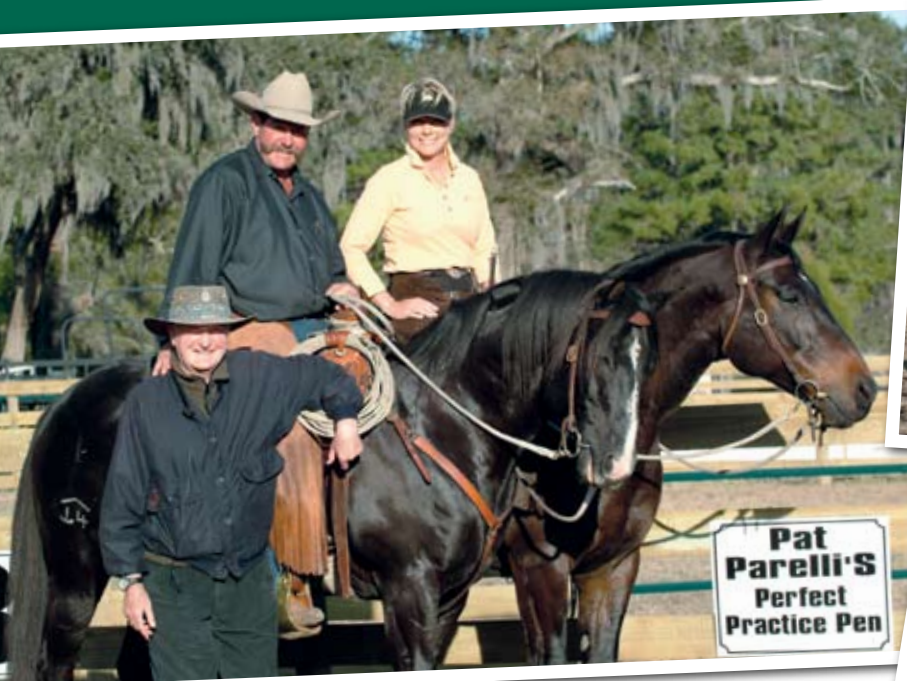


photo courtesy of Neil and Sue Pye

photo courtesy of Mark Weiler



Mark and Leslie's wedding



Private clinic with Walter Zettl

Walter is very vocal about the atrocities he sees in much of the modern, competitive dressage, and how cruel it is to horses. "Do they hate horses? How can they do this to them?" He writes letters constantly to international bodies and magazines and travels and teaches tirelessly in an attempt to show people that there is a way to the top without making it so hard on the horse. Originally from Czechoslovakia, trained in Germany and living in Canada for the past 30 years, Zettl's training of the Canadian Eventing Team is among his credits.

The September clinic was both educational and fun for us and even better was the private time we were able to spend with Walter where we found out just how deeply our philosophies and approaches were. From there, we conspired to bring him to our place in Ocala for a five day personal and private clinic. Walter and his wife Heide were an absolute pleasure to have as our guests, and together we explored the principles of developing horses to high levels of performance while preserving their dignity. It was phenomenal.

Lucky Pat had three sessions a day with Walter while I could only have one (too involved with the Faculty and Courses!). Caton had a session each day and both Kalley (Pat's premier assistant) and Amy Book (his talented niece) also got to participate. Walter was so complimentary of the horsemanship foundation he kept witnessing, especially in the three that had no prior dressage experience... and you should have seen Caton! It was fantastic.

One of Walter's sayings is about getting horses to do the most difficult maneuvers without them even knowing they are difficult, and as he coached us in pirouettes, half passes, flying changes, piaffe and passage we not only got

to feel his truth in that, but we felt it as his students. Not that it doesn't take a lot of concentration and energy, but his way is so encouraging and he knows just what ingredients to have in place before asking for the next thing, how much to ask for and when to quit so it doesn't become too much. Best of all, we loved it when he said people need to learn how to play with their horse in the dressage arena!

It was a wonderful week, and the first in many many years where Pat and I could immerse ourselves as students. As you might imagine we're scheduling a number of these weeks with Walter for this next year. Don't you just LOVE learning?!

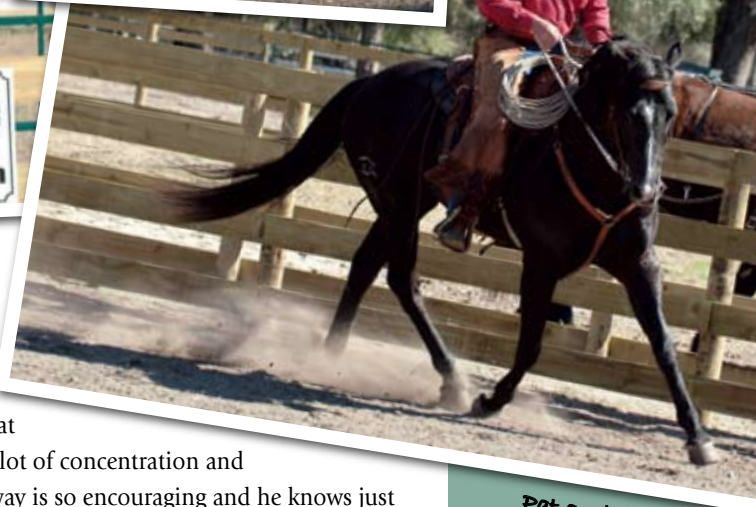
Walter said this was the best clinic he's ever done and his wife Heide said that they usually never do more than two days because it's so exhausting for Walter, and yet he was totally energized at the end of it. For more about what Walter had to say about working... or should I say PLAYING with us, check out Walter Zettl's web site: walterzettl.net

DANCING WITH HORSES

In January I was invited to attend a board meeting for the Equus Projects—Dancing with Horses—along with some notable people from the arts world in New York. JoAnna Mendle Shaw is one of only two dance composition teachers on the faculty at the Juilliard School, and who over the past three years began choreographing dancers and horses together. Until meeting David Lichman and then being introduced to



Linda and Remmer



Pat and Casper

The Juilliard discussion group in New York



Photo courtesy of Linda Parelli

Karen Rohlf to create a performance for the Symphony of Horses charity event in Ocala, JoAnna had only worked with traditional dressage riders so you can imagine how excited she was.

I'm really not a dancer so when you see me dance with Pat you should know that I just hang on for dear life and do a high level Passenger Lesson, mirroring him to the best of my ability! So it caught me by surprise when I found myself transfixed at the rehearsal sessions

with Karen, her horse "Monty" and our "River" and the two dancers Blair and Gina. The interaction and emotion was spellbinding, not the least of which was through watching how the dancers completely melted into the horses. Karen said she couldn't believe how responsive the horses were to the dancers, and as I watched

I could see how they all just became part of each other. Isn't that what horsemanship is all about, too?

JoAnna talked to me about her passion for teaching this, how meaningful and expanding it was for the dancers and that she'd like them to learn some of our methods. With David Lichman as their private coach, we hosted JoAnna, Blair and Gina for a week in Pagosa last summer where they completed their study of Level 1. I was invited to be on the Equus Board, along with David, and while he was recovering from surgery on his foot I attended the three days of meetings in New York. Talk about a fish out of water... or should I say a horse-lover out of the poop!

I sat fascinated as I listened to artists, entrepreneurs, managers, dancers and technicians from the likes of New York's Ice Theater, Dance New York and the Juilliard Institute discuss the artistic merits of the Equus Projects work. I felt a little more at home when the talk turned to business and marketing, thank goodness. What a great experience and of course I was well taken care of. At a special cocktail party I was introduced to Ron Savarese who is head of the New York Mounted Police Department (and very interested to explore Parelli methods) and was asked to be filmed and photographed

by Janet Biggs (famous New York multi-media artist) who has been commissioned to do a project for the display windows of the Hermes store in downtown Manhattan. It all felt a bit surreal really. I should mention that they all got to see what we're all about as I played our new promotional four-minute DVD portraying our USA Tour event.

Of interest to you, JoAnna is a passionate and accomplished teacher of dance and dance composition and has some wonderful ways to teach riders to be more fluid and to convey what we want more congruently to the horse by the way we move. While meeting with her in New York we discussed the possibility of clinics held by JoAnna with David Lichman or Karen Rohlf specifically on Dancing with Horses, the first of which occurs March 18 at Karen's place in Ocala. We will announce when and where other clinics will run so if you are Level 2 studying Level 3 and would like to participate and explore new avenues of your way to move, of dancing with your horse and interacting with real dancers, I can promise you a very unique and empowering experience. Of course everybody is invited to watch!

WHILE IN NEW YORK...

The Bodies Exhibition:

Strange, wonderful, disturbing, fascinating and humbling are the words that spring to mind from attending the Bodies Exhibition while in New York. The exhibition features human bodies preserved by a way that replaces fluids in tissues with a silicon-polymer material and then displayed in dignified and imaginative ways that reveal our inner workings like we've never seen before.

I wouldn't recommend this for the squeamish but, as a teacher of Fluidity and having always been fascinated by how the body works, I was riveted. I could have spent all day there as the wonders of the human body unfolded in explorations of structures and systems, organs and glands. Can you imagine the Central Nervous system laid out under glass? What about the circulatory system by itself? Not to mention the brain, muscles, joints... and tendons, oh my goodness. The tendons splayed out from your heel to each of your toes look like guitar strings, same with your hands to each finger. And when you see how delicate they seem yet how much strength they have it's just boggling. It made me think a lot about horses in this way too... how much load and stress those skinny legs and feet endure, especially once we add our weight to them. There is no doubt that it has fueled my passion for teaching Fluidity by seeing in detail the fragility of the body in pieces and the incredible power of it in



Linda and JoAnna Mendle Shaw in New York

photo courtesy of Linda Parelli

photo courtesy of Linda Parelli and Lynne Eisenhardt

synchronization... and now I know even more how important it is when horse and rider come together.

Blue Man Group:

JoAnna took me to a show called Blue Man Group in which one of her former students was a member. I had no idea what I was in for, but to say that it was stimulating is an understatement. As silent, comedic performers and musicians they are fantastic, but even better was the showmanship, the way they involved the audience right from the beginning all the way to its awesome end was hugely inspirational for me. It made me think about how good it feels to feel involved, how it makes it much more than a show and why it is people love our tour events and want to keep coming back.

Should you be interested, there are Blue Man Group shows in different parts of the country, in New York and Las Vegas for sure, and I would go again in a heartbeat. I told Pat and our creative team that they just HAVE to go!

What fun it was to step outside of my world for a few days. It recharged me in ways I would never have expected. Thank you JoAnna, more than you can know.

photos courtesy of Linda Parelli and Lynne Eisenhardt



During the six weeks of the Course Lynne spoke to me on occasion and talked about how similar our approach was to the way they trained the dolphins...

in fact they didn't train them at all. They focused on the relationship and shaped what the dolphins began to offer because of their growing trust and playfulness and that's what blew her away during our

Course. She had been exposed to two horse trainers since buying her horse "Atlas," and was totally disgusted until she attended one of the Parelli tour events in Tampa as a big skeptic. Long story short, she booked into the first run of the new Courses last fall. The relationship she already had with her horse spoke volumes, and it was hugely validating for me to find out first hand how it's done with dolphins. I'll never forget Pat saying many years ago, "If a team of

behavioral scientists had to rank dog trainers, dolphin trainers and horse trainers, who would they put first and who last? Training dolphins would have to be the most challenging and therefore produce the best methods, because when Flipper doesn't want to interact, what would you do?!" No prizes for guessing who'd be at the bottom.

Lynne planned a

brilliant day for us. We started with a behind-the-scenes tour of Discovery Cove, canoodled with dolphins, went behind the scenes with the killer whales at Sea World and finished sitting by the dolphin pools talking

Pat and Linda with Lynne Eisenhardt at Discovery Cove



OF DOLPHINS AND HORSES

Nothing could have prepared me for what Pat and I experienced when visiting Discovery Cove (an affiliate of Sea World) last month. Lynne Eisenhardt was a student of my six week course last fall and is the most highly rated senior dolphin trainer at Discovery Cove, Orlando, a five star dolphin interactive experience.

photos courtesy of Linda Parelli and Lynne Eisenhardt

with trainers and watching after hours play time. It was hard to leave, but we went back for Pat and his sister Joy's birthdays in March where the whole family did the front end experience which includes swimming on the back of a dolphin.

A highlight for the Course 2: Fluidity I—FreeStyle class in February was having Lynne do a presentation which drew the parallels between the Parelli program and how it's done with dolphins. The hardest thing for many of our students is to just play with their horse, to put the relationship first and through building confidence and offering sensitive leadership at strategic times, the desirable becomes possible. Not being direct-line can be so hard for a predator! Proof positive was watching dolphins offer their teeth for inspection, turn over and have their bellies examined, slide up onto the weighing platform like it was a fun toy, and hearing stories of how taking blood, pregnancy checking and taking medical samples are a total non-event because of how much the dolphins trust their trainers. The fun rewards are dolphins catapulting into the air at the slightest suggestion responding without hesitation to every performance request from their beloved trainers.



photos courtesy of Linda Parelli and Lynne Eisenhardt



Lynne Eisenhardt and Atlas during their six weeks at the Florida Parelli Center

As Lynne talked about what it took to go through the levels as a dolphin trainer, especially how in the first year that all they do is observe behavior and spend undemanding time playing with the dolphins and gaining their confidence, our students went to another place. It's really not about the ride! The fledgling trainers all want to ride dolphins. That's what everyone wants to do, it's the highlight for any trainer... and yet to have it happen where the dolphin also enjoys it is what it's all about. That's where dolphins have it over horses... they didn't start by being a worker or a tool for the human. This is the first time in history that horses are companions in sport and recreation for people, where people really love them and yet archaic training approaches are still very much the norm.

For Pat and me it was a significant experience and completely magical. To see the training staff meeting together then walk down the path, go around the corner and see dolphins popping their heads out of the water in excitement was the best sight ever. They *want* to be with the trainers... *really, truly, enthusiastically want to be with them*. That's how we want your horses to feel about you.

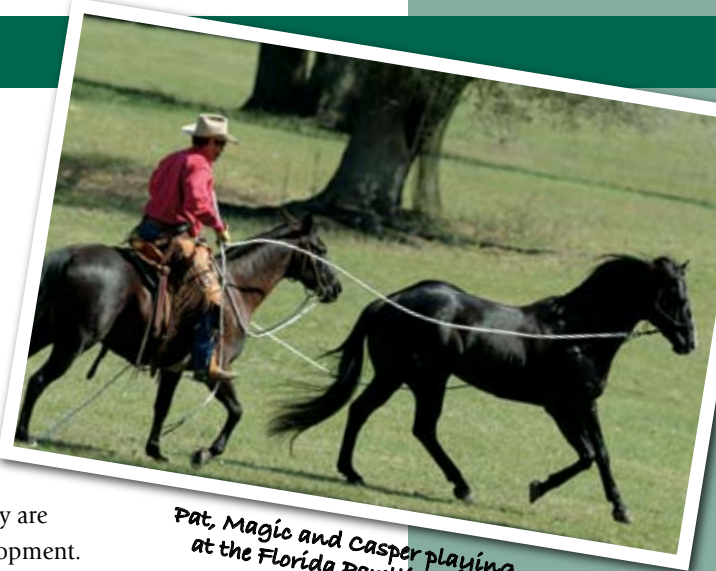
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH...

We're now two thirds of the way through our second staging of the new Courses at the Parelli Center and things are going very nicely under the guidance of our faculty: Kaffa, Don, Rachel, Tina, Jerry, Jesse, Lyla, Cathy and John. The transformation of students into more savvy leaders for their horses is occurring every minute of every day, the best feeling for me being the air of harmony and serenity that's present in every playground. Not only do horses look calmer and happier, even the wildlife feels safe. Squirrels and raccoons play around us almost oblivious to the humans present. Hmmmm, does this mean even they don't feel like we are predators?

While I'm deeply involved with our faculty and courses, Pat is in a whole new creative space constructing his new Pat's Paradise, his R&D Center where higher levels of savvy are under intense development.

See you on the road!

Linda



Pat, Magic and Casper playing at the Florida Parelli Center

Dear Linda,

The health and safety of our animals and guests are our highest priorities. The animals at our parks receive the very best veterinary care and they are carefully monitored to ensure that their health, diets, behavior and activities are appropriate.

Our animals are not forced to perform. Trainers always use positive reinforcement -- animals are never punished. Trainers maintain a constant variety of activities in each animal's life for added enrichment; the emphasis is on building a strong relationship between humans and the animals in our care.

The Sea World and Discovery Cove staff is trained to make sure guests interact appropriately with our animals. We have no tolerance for improper guest conduct with any of our animals.

One of the most important things that Sea World and Discovery Cove do is to educate people about marine animals, animal habitats and conservation issues. Wildlife conservation, research and education have always been a key part of our company's mission.

In fact, our parent company created a not-for-profit, charitable foundation that provides financial support for field research, animal rescue, education and wildlife and habitat conservation. The fund also contributes to environmental groups like The Nature Conservancy and National Wildlife Federation that share our company's mission to conserve wildlife and habitats. Visit swbg-conservationfund.org for more information.

Today, people care about the health and welfare of dolphins and other animals from the sea -- partly because of the kinds of experiences available to guests who visit Sea World and Discovery Cove.

Sincerely,

Lynne Eisenhardt
Senior Trainer
Discovery Cove

Dolphin programs around the world are often criticized for their treatment of the animal for the human's pleasure. What we personally experienced at Discovery Cove was incredible... the loving way in which they train and care for their animals is way beyond what many horses experience in captivity. It was no surprise to learn how deeply involved they are in wildlife education, conservation and rescue, and that they not only exceed USDA standards but set new ones.

Aha! Moments

You know you truly understand Parelli when you see how it applies to a part of your life that has nothing to do with horses. Send us your *Aha! Moments* to share with fellow Savvy Club members. savvyclub@parelli.com or Parelli, Attn: Savvy Times, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

I thought about the very positive benefits your program has brought to much more than just my horsemanship. Without doubt it has also touched both my personal and professional relationships as described in the two examples below.

My firm did not have good employee relations, and early attempts to influence the directors to improve the situation were unsuccessful. As I progressed through Level 2, acquiring emotional fitness and confidence, I was eventually able to change a historic mind set within the Board, resulting in a much happier (and more profitable) business.

My 17-year-old son was recently asked to give a talk to his final year classmates and chose to speak about doing your best in the final exams. I was amazed when I heard his opening line... "Prior and proper preparation..." Who said teenagers never listen?!

—Veronica Hornby, Yorkshire, England

I had to laugh tonight. I took my male Corgi out with me to round up the last of the chickens who were draggin' their tail feathers about getting into the hen house tonight. I thought about what Pat said on the Cowology segment of the Nov. 2005 DVD about not training the dog but have the dog help you 'train your cows'. So I set about having Kramer

the Cardigan Corgi help me get the last of the hens in the hen house. I don't know how I managed it, but he and I could point our noses together in a united front and... IT WORKED. We'd back up when the hen would do what we wanted—which was to go toward the door to the hen house (we'd single them out one at a time instead of trying to push several of them at once). Darnedest thing. Before we'd be circling and circling the hen house gathering strays and putting back ones that leaked out the hen house door while we were at the back. But this time they just walked in. I closed the door to the hen house and sat down because I was laughing so hard. Kramer and I.... we really dig this Parelli stuff.

—Forum member, Peeperpuppy

Who knew that I would end up working on my horsemanship on vacation?!

My husband and I took a trip to fly fish for Tarpon on Islamorada Key in Florida. Staying balanced on the boat while standing on the deck was a challenge at times. I thought about Linda's talks on center of balance. I was able to keep my balance while standing on the boat. I didn't need a wide stance. I just needed to think about my Balance Point being the heaviest part of my body.

The real challenge would be to balance

on the elevated platform at the rear of the boat. I saddled up, straddled the platform and started riding the waves! As the waves came up behind me it was like my horse's hindquarters coming up under me, and as the wave followed through it was like being in time with the front legs up hill. Big boat wakes were like jumps!

The grinding of my seat bones and the sound it made on the hard platform made it very obvious to me that I wasn't on my Balance Point. Suddenly I had it and it just felt fluid! I found my Balance Point!

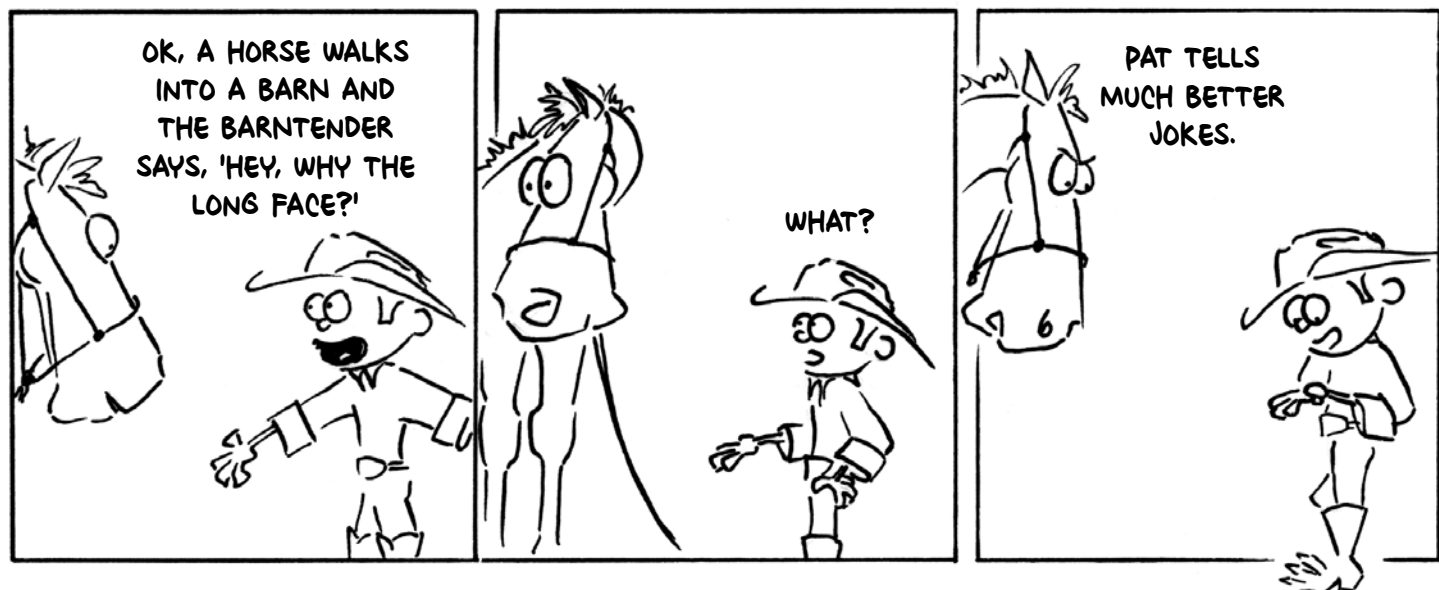
I find myself trying to become everything I ride, lately... my tractor, four-wheeler, truck and waves! It is a lot of fun. I used to think that I had a bad back. I was just not fluid, is all. My back feels much better, and my horse, Dusty, is glad I went on a fishing trip.

—Cheryl Almasy, Pennsylvania

My brother or my dog will be in my way and instead of verbalizing for them to move, I "up" my body language and start shaking an imaginary stick at them. The thing is that I'd probably stop doing it if it wasn't so darn effective. The both of them move EVERY TIME. When I notice what I'm doing, I just say "Driving Game for Humans" and laugh.

—Forum member, lone-plainsman, Massachusetts

M.E. & OH BOY® BY KATJA TAURES





HONEY, I SHRUNK THE... PARELLIS?

August 19–21, 2005 the NAMHSA (North American Model Horse Show Association) held their finals in Las Vegas, Nevada. My daughter and I show models in the Performance Classes and wanted to

'put a win in the bag' so to speak. So I put together a Parelli set up. I customize dolls and who better to copy than Pat and Linda! The setup caught the attention of everyone who attended. And believe it or not most of these avid model showers knew who they were! So I thought I would send a few pictures of this setup winning Grand!

—Mary Jahnke, Nevada

QUESTION: WHY IS PAT RIDING IN THAT BRIDLE ON PAGE 2 OF THE JANUARY 2006 ISSUE OF SAVVY TIMES?

There is a time in a horse's education when the bit is not needed for control, and can become a tool to enhance elevation and vertical flexion. Curb bits are just that... unfortunately they are commonly used as bigger brakes rather than for more finesse.

Pat realized that he'd been holding his horses back for many years by trying to set a good example for Level 1, 2 and 3 students. He certainly made his point about the bigger brain vs. the bigger bit... getting a 'bit' of

savvy! He also proved that many, if not all, of the advanced maneuvers with a horse could be performed with a snaffle, bridle-less in fact.

For Levels 4 and beyond, especially if

you are seeking higher engagement, collection and performance, the curb bit becomes a necessary tool because of how it feels to the horse. It is less direct in its contact, allows the rider to ride one-handed if needed, improves straightness and invites elevation. The curb bit actually is more palatable to the horse at this stage because two-handed, direct contact for elevated and engaged maneuvers is not comfortable for the horse in a snaffle... the curb bit and the feel it offers is more congruent.

Once the horse and the rider are ready in their education, the curb bit opens new doors of responsibility for the rider (you HAVE to ride more with your seat than your hands) and a more subtle and elevating influence in Zone 1 for the horse.

Just like spurs, in the hands of a novice who is using it for more force rather than finesse, a curb bit can be cruel and abusive. In the savvy attitude and hands of a horseman, the curb bit is a valuable tool.

(Note: *Course 3 Fluidity II—Finesse* at the Parelli Centers covers this subject in detail, showing and explaining the different curb bit mouthpieces and their application.)

—Linda Parelli

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAILER LOADING

I finally got my new horse trailer and proceeded to load the horses to see if I would need to work on things. Star was a star and loaded several times with just the point of a finger. Mooney took a little longer but got in and stayed for several minutes. I was very happy.

Last night I was feeding the horses and could see a fire from the house. I didn't think it would pose any problem to us, but because of the high winds and a recent trailer loss, I went ahead and hooked the rig together. As we were hooking up the trailer the fire started spreading and the wind was heading our way. By this time it was totally dark. We could see the fire heading our way, so I got Austin, dogs and horses (of course Jeff). Let me tell ya, the horses loaded in the trailer without a problem. Mooney took a couple of tries but he loaded and stayed. We got the heck out of the area. As we left the fire was at our fence line

and heading for the barn and house.

We returned about an hour later to find fire trucks everywhere, but the fire—thank God—stopped at our fence line because the fire ran out of things to burn (no grass). It burnt a little of the corner fence, but we were very lucky not to lose anything.



Mooney, Julie and Star in front of the burn area

So I can't stress enough the importance of trailer loading even in a stressful situation when their lives depend on you getting them out of a situation. Once again, the Parelli system works!

—Julie, Austin, Jeff and critter

CIRCLING GAME

I was helping with a Parelli Play Day and experienced quite an interesting Circling Game. Mr. Biscuit, on his own initiative picked up my Carrot Stick and string, and began playing the Circling Game with me for two entire circles.

He certainly had the phases down—including the Phase 3 wiggling, and the Phase 4 whack on the butt (pictured with Jean).

It's too bad his human partner wasn't astute enough to read his Phase 1 & 2!! This was very intentional on Biscuit's part, and the whole place was rolling on the floor laughing.

—Jerry Schmidt



photos courtesy of Jerry Schmidt

APOLOGIES: We'd like to apologize for misprinting Valerie Turner's name as 'Taylor' in our Conference recap in the October 2005 issue of Savvy Times. Her session with Linda can be found on the February 2006 DVD.





I first heard about Pat Parelli last year, and after attending one of the Tours I bought the Level 1 and 2 Programs. Viewing the DVDs, it really hit home that progressing slowly and methodically is vital to this program. Taking time to get things right for both the horse and human is a basic concept, and one of the best ways for both you and your horse to absorb new material and practice all the new moves in a calm, relaxed way. There is no way way to hurry through the Parelli exercises—if you want to do them correctly.

I also started applying the Parelli principles in herding and agility. Even though dogs aren't prey animals, lots of the principles translate well when working my Border Collies, especially those elements dealing with applying and releasing pressure, and when to use it. One of the working Border Collie commands is: "Take Time." It means put on the brakes, and slow the forward motion down a notch. This usually gives the handler time to mentally sort out what to do next, and prevent you from being run over by all those pointy little sheep feet. As a result of my Parelli exposure, I have started to regularly lend out my Level 1 and 2 DVDs to all my herding and agility friends.

Today, so much emphasis is put on us daily to get results in a hurry. It's great to find a program that values "Taking Time."

—CAROL WIGGINS, YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA

We've all heard the saying, "Timing is everything." But it was Pat's words, "Take the time it takes," that really hit home for me.

Two years ago I bought what I thought was a quiet, five-year-old Quarter Horse mare with riding experience. My first mistake was setting an unrealistic time goal. I decided I would play with my new horse on the ground for a month, then ride. I had visions of us happily trotting around the arena as a team.

I did my month of the Seven Games, then got on. On the third day of riding, I found myself on the ground when I frightened my horse. She reared up and dumped me.

Fear of falling again kept me off her for the next year, and we continued our ground work. I realized that in my quest to ride, I failed to recognize the fear issues of my horse. Time meant nothing to her; she just wanted to feel safe.

During that year of not getting on, I constantly fought self-imposed pressure and also peer pressure to move forward when we weren't ready. Thanks to Linda and the Parelli Program, I became a leader to my horse and learned to read her. Our mutual trust grew.

This past summer I did get on her again, with the help

of Dr. Stephanie Burns' book, "Move Closer, Stay Longer." We've been able to ride for short periods of time safely. I still fight my human tendency to want to "get from point A to point B" in a certain time frame. But it's those times that I look back on how far my horse and I have progressed, and I hear Pat's voice, "Take the time it takes!"

—ROSE COFFMAN, IRWIN, PENNSYLVANIA

My biggest frustration in learning natural horsemanship is the pace at which I'm progressing. Getting through Level 1 was frustrating but rewarding. Level 2 has been frustrating at times. However, I don't think it's all the horse's problem—most of the problem, I suspect, is the timetable I originally set for myself. Looking back, I'd say it was unrealistic.

I've studied the books, watched the videos, seen the DVDs from the Savvy Club and, occasionally, caught the show on RFD-TV. But it still takes time! Unfortunately, not all people learn at the same rate nor do we all have the same amount of time to devote to our horses. In addition, I may have set unrealistic expectations for myself and my horse. Pat keeps saying "take the time it takes." Just how long is that?

Am I stupid because I'm taking longer? I hope not! In my real-world job, I'm a teacher—and, frequently, my students "just don't seem to get it." I know they're not stupid. It's just that they haven't had the "aha moment" that teachers would like to see in the classroom.

We can't predict or foretell at what time we really learn something or at what time lessons really percolate and make sense on a deeper level. My goal is to continue working through Level 2, and then move into Level 3. Time? It may be a lifetime—but think what life would be like without horses and natural horsemanship!

—STUART TICHENOR, HENRYETTA, OKLAHOMA

In the summer of 2005 it only took me minutes to decide to apply for the first Liberty & Horse Behavior class being offered at the Florida Parelli Center in October. I had to wait two weeks to get confirmed that I had gotten into the class, which was to be taught by Linda Parelli. I then had over three months to prepare and to anticipate the event.

Participating in a two-week course was significant because I work full-time and taking that much time off was unheard of for me. But, finding the time to play with my horse, Storm, was always an issue with me. Now I was getting the opportunity to spend two whole weeks with Storm and I was bouncing off the walls with excitement. In my efforts to explain to my husband why I was so excited,

Each issue of Savvy Times features a particular subject to which our readers can respond. The deadlines following are when your 250-word submission must be received to be considered for publishing.

July Issue:

"Imagination"

May 15, 2006

October Issue:

"Savvy" Aug 15, 2006

Please send submissions via e-mail to: savvyclub@parelli.com or via U.S. Postal Service to: Savvy Times, c/o Parelli, PO Box 3729, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81147. Thanks!

I told him that taking a course from Linda Parelli was like going to batting camp with Roger Marist. My husband just looked at me and said, "You worked on that one for a while, didn't you?" Yes, I had taken some time to come up with that analogy, but it was worth the effort. My husband understood how important it was to me.

My time at the Florida Parelli Center was the fastest two weeks I have ever experienced. I learned a great deal—especially about time. I learned to give Storm the time it takes for him to process, time to ask questions, time to play, and time to become more confident.

Better managing time with Storm has already had big pay-offs. Storm is now eager for me to play with him. As we learn new tasks, Storm learns more quickly as I work to maintain his confidence and to ensure he and I have quality time together. Even our undemanding time has reached a new level because Storm no longer just stands next to me, he literally plays with me the entire time (my hat, my hair, my jacket, my hands, legs). Taking two weeks of time to attend the Horse Behavior & Liberty class will always be valued and cherished, and will undoubtedly remain a highlight in my horsemanship journey, even as time passes.

—ANNE L. DUTTON & STORM WATCH, WALESKA, GEORGIA

As a Parelli student for almost three years now, I find that 'taking the time it takes' is invaluable.

When my rescued mare came along, I was not looking for a horse, but my husband said (with a smile), "You're not getting any younger! If you don't do it now, when will you?"

Hazelnut was smart, sensitive, and challenging. I really wasn't sure what to do with her. Since time was all I had to offer, we simply hung out for hours: walking, grazing, and playing the Seven Games. For two years, we 'did nothing' but groundwork. People asked when I was going to ride that horse—I answered, "Ask her."

Meanwhile, I bought a little paint mare as my Levels horse. It was a great decision for all three of us. Snickers has been a patient teacher for me and a dependable companion for Hazelnut. We passed Level 1 in September 2004.

Last summer, Hazelnut decided it was time to become a saddle horse and was started without incident. We took to the trails as if she'd been doing it all her life. With time, and the guidance of Parelli, Hazelnut and I have developed a solid relationship.

Teaching full time and working for board six days a week make finding time to play with 'the girls' a constant challenge. Some days, it's hard to fight the feeling that we

should hurry up and work on specific tasks, but then I remember to relax and enjoy the journey.

—KATHY SCHMIDT, PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON

It's my understanding that many of us on the Parelli journey are those who finally appeased our horse "bug" later in life. As a frustrated horse lover, I begrudged my parents some for not encouraging my passion for horses as a youngster. Having the genuine horse "bug" is not cured with age. I acquired my first horse at the age of 40-something. I was green. Beau was greener, a seven-month-old weanling. It was not the best match, but it was the reason I found Pat Parelli. Progressing through the Program has proven what a precious gift of time Pat has given us.

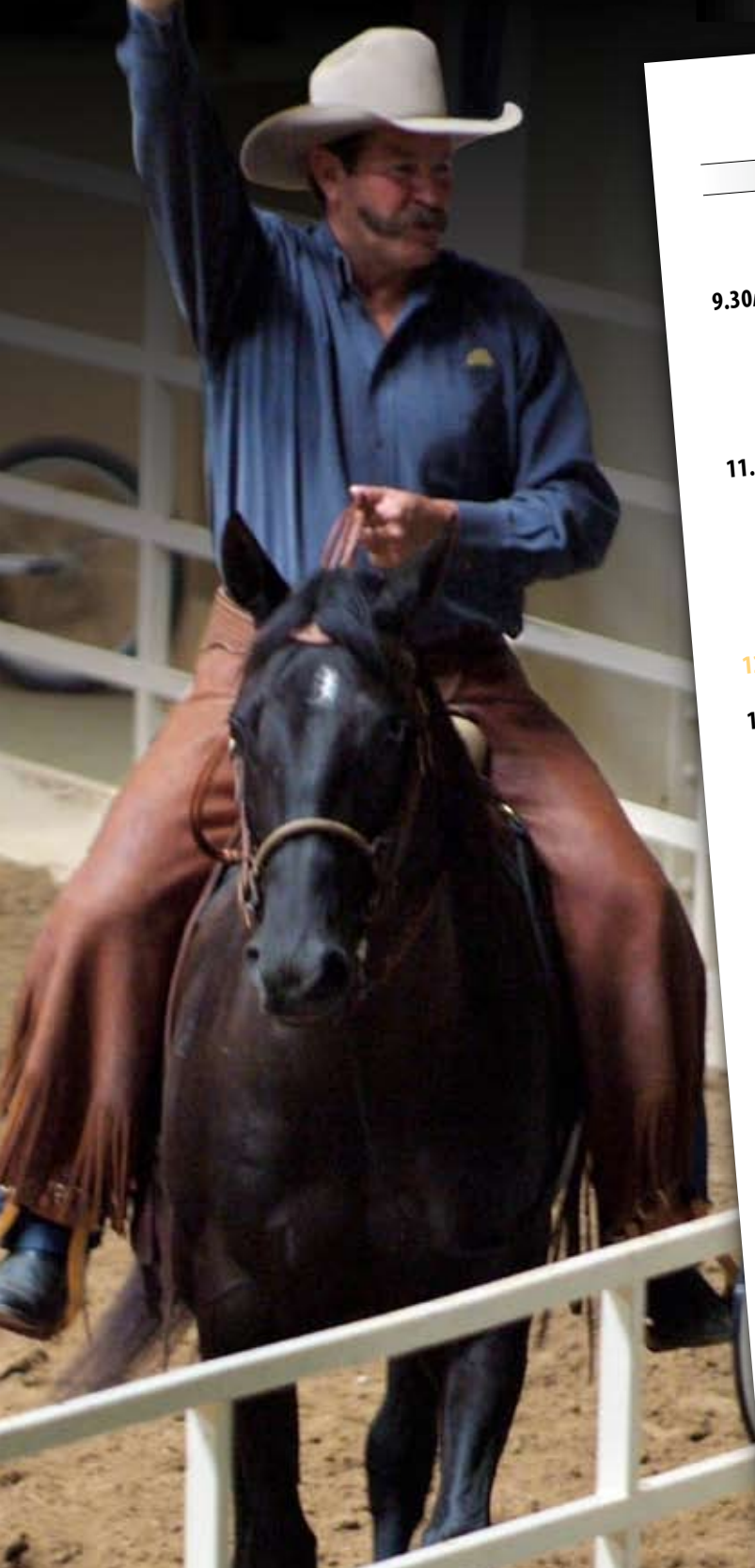
As I felt my riding years slipping away, I was anxious to start our Parelli journey and start progressing in Level 1. I remember that "aha!" moment when I heard Pat assure us on the audio tape that he had taken his 20+ years of experience and condensed them into the Program. How blessed I was to realize his willingness to share his savvy would catapult me along the natural horseman learning curve. What a relief to finally be able to release the grudge and unforgiveness I held toward my parents. (Even they are "wowed" by my Parelli videos, an added blessing as they encourage my horsemanship now.)

I've often thought my lack of horse experience was a deficit. There is still much to learn, another reason the biological clock threatens. But recently a friend stated that my lack of experience has saved much time. I acquired most of my horse knowledge from Parelli, so there has been very little time wasted unlearning "normal" habits. Whether a few minutes or hours, time is a key element in strengthening my bond with Beau. When our play time is limited, that bond weakens. Time invested in the Program is indeed time wisely and well invested, paying big dividends at an accelerated rate.

So, thank you, Pat (and Linda), for generously sharing your savvy with us and packaging it in such an ingenious way. It saves valuable time and makes every minute we do invest multiply many-fold, especially when there's precious little time to waste. What a wonderful gift you have given us late-comers—the fulfillment of a dream we thought long gone due to time restraints. George Elliot said, "It's never too late to be what you might have been." I believe that now, and thank God for finding you!

—JUDY, BENNETT, IA

Parelli USA Tour For Horse Lovers Only!™



DAY 1

DAY 1 – SATURDAY: 9.30AM – 5.30PM

9.30AM

REMEMBER WHY YOU GOT INTO HORSES ...

Get ready for an entry that will raise the hairs on your arms... meet Pat, his wife Linda and their special horses... get a taste of the magic and an introduction to the philosophy of the Parelli's revolutionary approach. Remember... this event is for horse lovers only!

11.30AM

SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT...

This is not about what Pat and Linda can do with horses, it's what they can teach YOU to do. Watch students of all levels and styles playing with their horses on the ground, at liberty and riding with and without bridles. You'll see why the remarkable international success of the Parelli Program is in a large part due to the quality of the teaching materials. No one teaches like Parelli!

12.00PM

BREAK 1

1.00PM

TRANSFORMING HORSES...

Witness the before and after results watching horses who have never been exposed to the Parelli methods. Two local horses are chosen because the problems their owners have are frustrating and limiting, some even dangerous. After first observing their difficulties the horses are handed over to Pat and Linda who go on to demonstrate the results that the love, language and leadership of the Parelli Program produces. In less than two hours you'll see horses totally transform from being... afraid of the audience, tarps on the ground, jumps and trailers... that are hard to manage, pushy, tense, resistant... to becoming calm, confident and interested partners. The secret lies in understanding horse behavior and then using equine psychology to develop confidence in four critical areas: environment, leadership, learning and self.

3.00PM

BREAK 2

4.00PM

RAPPORT – RESPECT – IMPULSION – FLEXION...

Discover how to create rapport, respect, impulsion and flexion with horses from the ground up, level-by-level, step-by-step. In this session, 5-Star Parelli Professional Neil Pye, together with local students, explains how the Parelli Program develops from beginner to advanced levels. No matter what your focus or discipline—English or Western, competitive, professional or recreational—the Parelli Program offers insights, deeper understandings and techniques used by horse lovers, colleges and professionals all over the world.

5.00PM

FOCUS ON THE HUMAN SPIRIT...

This inspirational and heart warming session brings to light how a horsemanship program that is based on love can deeply impact personal relationships. No words are necessary as you witness the evolution of a special journey in life between Pat and one of his most extraordinary students... his son, Caton.



Join Us For

DAY 2 – SUNDAY: 9.30AM – 5.00PM

9.30AM

HORSEPLAY

Watch people having fun with their horses.

10.00AM

PAT PARELLI... UNPLUGGED

Pat exposes the problems with horsemanship today and unveils a wealth of knowledge and experience. From young horses to performance, he shares his heartfelt philosophies and performs breathtaking demonstrations with some of the most challenging horses he's ever owned. You can't help but feel moved by the spirituality that horses bring to our lives and how they help us become better human beings. The best thing about this session is seeing Pat totally impromptu. He never rehearses! Repeat attendees are always amazed at how much more the horses have learned.

12.00PM

BREAK 1

1.30PM

LEARN TO LISTEN TO YOUR HORSE... AND YOUR OWN BODY.

In a revealing and sometimes confronting session on how common misconceptions on riding techniques are the cause of discomfort, resistance and pain (for the horse AND the rider), Linda Parelli shows how success is all about balance, flow and flexibility. Riding is not about winning ribbons, it's about becoming one with the horse... and only your horse can tell you the truth! If it doesn't feel good, it ISN'T good! Learn to read what your horse is telling you about your riding.

3.00PM

BREAK 2

4.00PM

HEALTHY COMPETITION...

Many riders don't want to compete and yet want to have goals to shoot for because it develops their skills, cultivates excellence and gives them a reason to make progress with their horse.

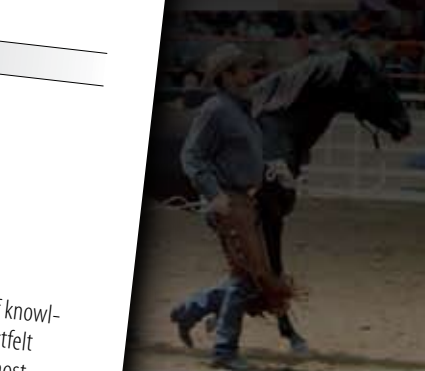
When you have goals, you achieve more and you are not boring for your horse. The problem with most competitive endeavors is that it's too much pressure for the horse and people do whatever it takes to win, often at the horse's expense. The Parelli Games is a fun and exciting way to challenge yourself in a social environment with others instead of against them. It's a bit like golf, where it's all about going for your personal best while you're having fun with others... and your golf clubs still like you!

Pat Parelli knows that "the love of winning is the root of all evil" so the Parelli Games are arranged in a such a way that no one is a loser... especially the horse. It tests principles more than results. Get loads of ideas for what you can do at home!

5.00PM

CLOSE

Now it's time to leave, and try and to tell your friends about what you've seen this weekend! Words will defy you but the way you'll feel will say it all. More importantly, it will be the start of a new, more deeply meaningful and successful relationship with your horse.





Summer

of Opportunity

by Lauren Barwick

As I sat on my big beautiful horse Dior, who I lease, I kept having this nagging feeling deep inside that there had to be a better way to allow me to be a more effective rider but with lightness.

I love what I have done over the last five years, competing all over the world. I've been riding many different types of horses and learning a new equestrian discipline, dressage, since I was unable to continue to jump horses due to an accident in 2000. While training to work with horses in the movies, a 100 pound bale of hay fell 10 feet, hitting me on the back and leaving me paralyzed from the hips down.

I had the answer inside me because I had experienced Pat Parelli's Natural Horsemanship seven years earlier. I had not abandoned natural horsemanship, but since I had so much to relearn about my self, the "natural" way was put in the storage closet. It was never far away because I had started my Hungarian mare with this technique, and she was one of the few horses I could handle on the ground without any assistance. Our bond was one that many envied.

Through the help of local friends, I was introduced to Pat and Linda at the Vernon "Love, Language, Leadership" tour. Little did I know that meeting would alter everything. I shared with Pat my dreams and goals to be the first paralyzed rider to ride Grand Prix and to compete in Beijing at the 2008 summer Paralympics. I knew deep down inside, my dream was accomplishable but not in the traditional methods of riding. Wanting to seek an answer to how I would progress effectively, I found myself very excited after speaking with Pat and Linda.

The weekend turned out to be very overwhelming; with the organization of Leslie Stewart of Parelli Canada and Pat's enthusiasm for helping others the audience made donations for Okanogan Therapeutic riding and I. They managed to raise \$10,000. I must say I was shocked, it had taken me months of planning an event to raise half of what was done in one hour.

Next to come is what changed my summer. Pat invited me to come work with him in Colorado for two weeks so that he could see if he could help me. My job was to refresh my Level 1 and start working on Levels 2 and 3. It was like a fire was lit under my butt; learning and playing with my mare was the highlight of my day. Jonathan Field, a local Parelli instructor, came to my barn and helped me so that I would be ready to work with Pat. There was no way I was going to let this opportunity slip through my hands. By August 27th my good friend Shannon and I were on a plane heading to Colorado.



FREEDOM (LIBERTY)

The first horse Pat let me ride was Liberty. His name for me truly stands for freedom. The first evening I sat on him I admit I was very nervous because I had never ridden in front of Pat. I think I was unable to use my own brain in fear of doing something wrong. Within the first night, somehow, I was doing a flying lead change and to me what I thought was a spin. Now that I see the video, it was not as spectacular as it had felt. I must say 11 days of practice helped a lot.

The next day after doing liberty with Liberty in the round pen, Pat told me I was going to help him move the cows. My voice was silent, but inside all my emotions were alive. My screams of fear, excitement and thrill were well heard by my brain. I remember thinking, "But I have never moved cows before. I haven't ridden outside of an arena since I broke my back. Out there! In the mountains?" My wild spirit and my brain battled. "Are you sure you can do this?" As I took a deep breath and tried to hide my overwhelming feelings, I reassured myself that Pat wouldn't ask me to do something that I was incapable of doing. I breathed in the fresh air, felt the sun on my face and couldn't help but smile.

As I silently fretted about not making a total mess of things, Pat reassured me that his cows were smart, and indeed they were. As I rode down and through the bunch of them, I remember telling Liberty that I had no idea what I was doing so I needed him to help out—actually I wouldn't be offended at all if he would just take the lead, and I would gladly be a wonderfully, grateful passenger. Two hours later, I had moved cows and ridden through the mountains with Pat and Caton, Pat's son. How I wanted to scream out, "Thank you!" I wanted to try and explain what I was feeling, but words escaped me for the whole journey. Up and down steep hills, through trails... when asked by Pat, "Are you okay?" All I could bring to my lips was, "This is awesome." Awesome!!! This was beyond awesome, this was true freedom.

Frankly, I was afraid of it, and at the same time I wanted more. You see when you have finally come to terms with the loss of something very important to you, it is hard to imagine and try to dream of anything else. During my 22 years of walking, my legs were well used and appreciated. As hard as it was, I believe I graciously came to terms with the loss of everything that was dear to me—cross country running, jumping horses, diving, mountain biking, and being free with my horse as I galloped across country through mountains, water and spectacular trails of pure nature. I remember well, with a tear in my eye, saying good-bye to the life I had known, and hello to a life I would not have chosen for anyone—not even my worst enemy. I halfheartedly smiled at my new life with a timid eagerness to overcome the challenges ahead not ever wanting to look back as it would be too painful. With a flight to Colorado, I was now faced fully with one of the true passions of my past. How I kept my composure I am not sure, but I will admit that after my shower that night I was not red faced from the hot water—more likely from the release of tears



photo courtesy of Shannon Hendrickson

of pain, anger, frustration, and mostly the passion I felt for what the future now held for me. Do I dare dream?

BLACK MAGIC

Another gift of great freedom—was it magic? For someone in my circumstances, this must be a question asked. How is it that within a one week period, I was able to do multiple flying changes down a straight line on a horse without the use of my legs, then Piaffe on the spot and spin in circles rapidly—and yes all with out falling off? Was it magic?

No. It was an effective way of riding and working with a horse!!! A gift beyond rationalization. When I think of Magic, tears come to my eyes. As I have spent the last five years riding many different horses, I must say Magic put her heart and soul in my hands giving me not two legs but four. It takes a very special horse to have trust in me. Normally when I ride a horse for the first time, it is about adapting to it and surviving so that I can try and accomplish anything close to my goal in a very short time. While playing with Magic from my scooter, I knew that there was something special about her. Her interest in me was beyond fear of something different. She confirmed this when my wheelchair

How I wanted to scream out, "Thank you!" I wanted to try and explain what I was feeling, but words escaped me for the whole journey.

broke, and I had to fix my wheels. Normally two different things would happen. While I was flipping my chair over and trying to fix a wheel with a wrench, hammer, screwdriver and spray bottle while holding on to my horse, they would snort and run away or completely ignore me. Then there was Magic taking complete interest in what I was doing and getting right in there helping with her muzzle. The only other horse that would do this is my Peanut at home, who I have a very special bond with. It was as if Magic was trying to understand what I was doing and why.



I learned a lot about my riding, but I admit that it was very difficult at times to focus on instruction because I was just too filled with emotion and anticipation for what was to come. Actually, I felt like a sponge full of water that would release tears of happiness every time I was touched in the slightest.

It was not techniques or how to ride that I was teaching them; it was that I was riding. It was what someone is capable of doing with so little that taught these people about themselves.

When it came to riding at the Savvy Conference I was very worried. I didn't feel worthy of riding in the Conference. Who was I to be given the right to ride for 1,500 people who have traveled from afar to see Pat and Linda? In my mind I had nothing to teach these people, and I was going to be riding Magic—a very popular horse among the Parelli followers. When I saw Pat ending his demo I looked at the clock and my heart rushed fast. All I could hear was the pounding in my ears. My whole body again was wondering if it was capable of this. I admit now that if I had an abort mission button, it would have been pushed ten times over. But it was too late. Next thing I knew I was being pushed in to the arena. There was no turning back now. As I started to play with Magic, I knew I was nervous. This leads back to being afraid of doing something wrong in front of people.

When it was time to bridle Magic, I looked into her eyes and felt her soft hair against my skin, her breathing against my chest, and she put her head in my lap. I knew then everything would turn out great. Through trust and opportunity, these animals have an amazing ability to read your thoughts and feelings. When this happens, it does feel like magic. Sure enough, the ride was smooth and at the end I felt exhilarated.

The tough part was now to come, I was going to speak to these people. As I started to tell my story, I was surprised at how easy it was. It was easy because I was passionate about what I had to say. During the break, I learned from people's responses why I was riding for these people. It was not techniques or how to ride that I was teaching them; it was that I was riding. It was what someone is capable of doing with so little that taught these people about themselves. I often forget this because when I ride, I fail to remember what I shouldn't be able to do and only think about what I want to do and what I am going to work towards doing. I think the best comment I ever got was, "I have been married to my red-necked husband for 10 years and have never seen him cry. Thank You!!!" I realized after talking to many people that my journey had just begun. If I can help someone to overcome what adverse adventures life brings them, I know I have done the best that I can. Pat and his horses have helped me to discover what I am capable of, and with their continued help, I know I will achieve greatness.

TEXAS

As my summer ended, I was invited to attend a dressage clinic Pat and Linda were participating in with Walter Zettl in Texas. With the continued support of Parelli Canada my flight was sponsored. Pat wanted to introduce me to his friends Bill and Susan Casner as well as Michael Richardson, who is an amazing rider that is also paralyzed from the hips down. I was also going

to be given the opportunity to do a demo ride on Magic. Again I was thrilled with the opportunity to travel and work with Pat as well as benefit from what else the trip brought. The interesting thing about the clinic was that it was the bringing together of different disciplines to work as

one. It was fascinating because it is true that each riding discipline has a lot to offer and are similar in many ways. Pat and Linda's



horses both wowed the crowd and were favorites to watch. My demo ride went very well, and I even did some of the movements that people were learning in the clinic. Magic was spectacular and I was very happy with our performance.

The Casner's hospitality towards someone they had never met made the journey very comfortable. They have built an amazing house and barn on a beautiful property. The room I stayed in made me feel like a Princess. I admit, I had a hard time getting on the bed as it was huge and high, but I wasn't going to decline this chance of living in luxury for three days and nights.

However, I did get lots of experience getting on and off the bed as my Jacuzzi bathtub seemed possessed. I realize that sounds odd, but while I was having a bath I turned the jets on. After relaxing in hundreds of bubbles, I tried to turn the tub off. This was more challenging then you would think. After 10 minutes, I decided I was going to have to get out of the tub with the jets blasting. During the first attempt, I slipped back in to the tub completely submerging my head under the water. When I finally was able to sit up, I discovered the raging jets had completely given my waist length hair a mangled-up-do. Looking like something out of a horror film, I managed to drag my half limp body out of the tub. I played with all the buttons, and the tub was finally silenced. Exhausted and finally in bed, I turned the lights off and shut my eyes only to be wakened by my bathtub turning itself on. So with me back in the bathroom, I again somehow got it to shutoff, and climbed Mt. Baker to get back into bed. Again the tub turns on—I was so tired and all I wanted to do was sleep. I repeated the above actions five more times with the tub turning on every 15 to 20 minutes, just giving me long enough to be warm in my bed and almost asleep. It was now 1:30AM and the rest of the house was asleep. Not wanting to wake anyone, I decided to just fill the tub back up with water and let the spastic bathtub do whatever it wanted. As

I was filling the tub, the jets turned on and the water was not quite over the air holes. Well, you can imagine what happened. The whole bathroom including me was soaked. At this point all I could do was smile and wait for the tub to fill. I closed the bathroom door and went to bed being serenaded by a Jacuzzi tub till 5:15 in the morning.

What made the journey extraordinary was that after staying with Bill and Susan, they agreed to a monthly sponsorship for three years to help me get to Beijing. Once again I was speechless. I, who am still trying to learn to accept simple help from people, find generosity from people with no monetary value attached difficult to understand. Nevertheless, as hard as it is, I am learning to be able to accept the help of others. I only hope I am able to keep on sharing my experiences and help many along the way. 🐾

Lauren's 2005 Conference performance can be found on the November 2005 Club DVD, Issue 13. More information about Lauren can also be found at www.ridingforgold.com.



photo courtesy of Shannon Hendrickson

Pat and his horses have helped me to discover what I am capable of,
and with their continued help, I know I will achieve greatness.



photo courtesy of Shannon Hendrickson

30 THINGS LEARNED FROM HORSES

Parelli sponsored an article in the January 2006 issue of Horse Illustrated magazine. The article, 30 Things Learned From Horses, got such an overwhelming response that we wanted to share a sampling of the lessons learned with you.

¹ Hold your head high, showing off isn't always a bad thing.

² *Savvy is something you can never have too much of.*

³ A softer voice is always better.

⁴ Don't bite the hand that feeds you!

⁵ Run and let the wind hit your face.

⁶ There is nothing like a cool drink on a warm summer day.

⁷ Don't be afraid to break a sweat.

⁸ *A good scratch goes a long way.*

⁹ Nothing beats sleeping under the stars.

¹⁰ Look before you leap.

¹¹ Lay in the green grass every now and then, it'll lift your spirit.

¹² The slow way is always the fastest way.

¹³ Actions speak louder than words.

¹⁴ Everyone needs a leader.

¹⁵ *If you're not in the lead, the view never changes.*

¹⁶ Fresh air is good for you.

¹⁷ Learn to be pleased not satisfied.

¹⁸ When you're mad or upset, forgive and forget.

¹⁹ *There's no place like home.*

²⁰ Be nice! Your mood rubs off.

²¹ Graze throughout the day.

²² Soak up the sunshine.

²³ If you're too slow for the track, try something else.

²⁴ Appreciate your partner.

²⁵ It's never too late to learn good habits.

²⁶ Watch your footing.

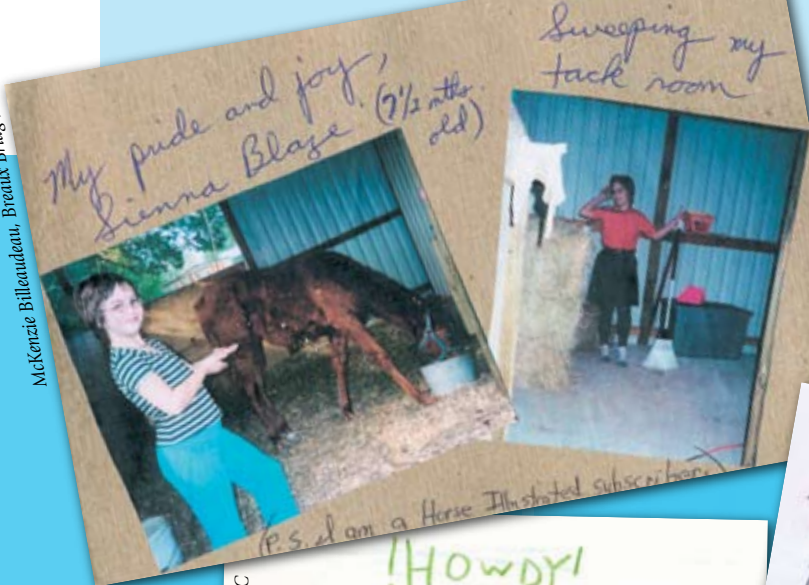
²⁷ It doesn't mean you're weak to back down from a fight.

²⁸ Relax and take a moment to smell the flowers around you.

²⁹ Never hide your individuality and free spirit.

³⁰ Enjoy a treat now and then.

Mckenzie Billeauden, Breaux Bridge, LA

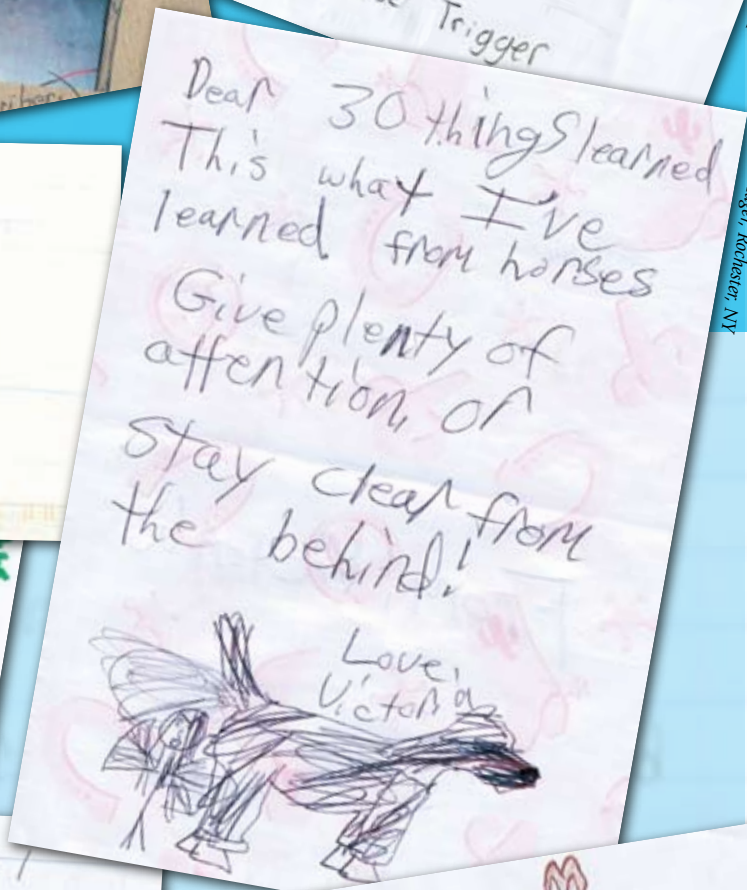


Emma Galuso, Worthington, OH

Claire Conaghan, Apex, NC



Kendra Kopecky, Cattaraugus, WI



Victoria Mager, Rochester, NY

Nicole Klaessig, Sanford, ME



Becca Doyle, Campbellsport, WI

Gretchen Radtke, Neosho, WI



Mckenzie Billeauden, Breaux Bridge, LA

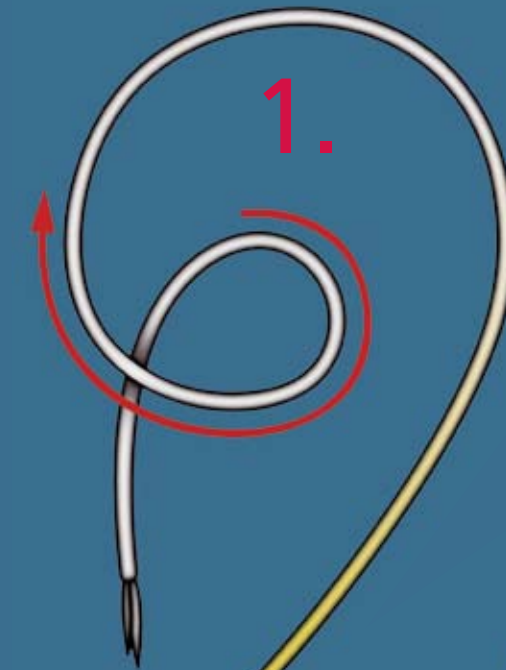
What Knot to Know.



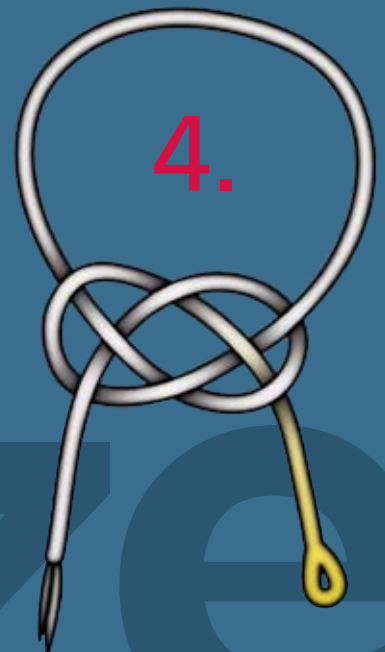
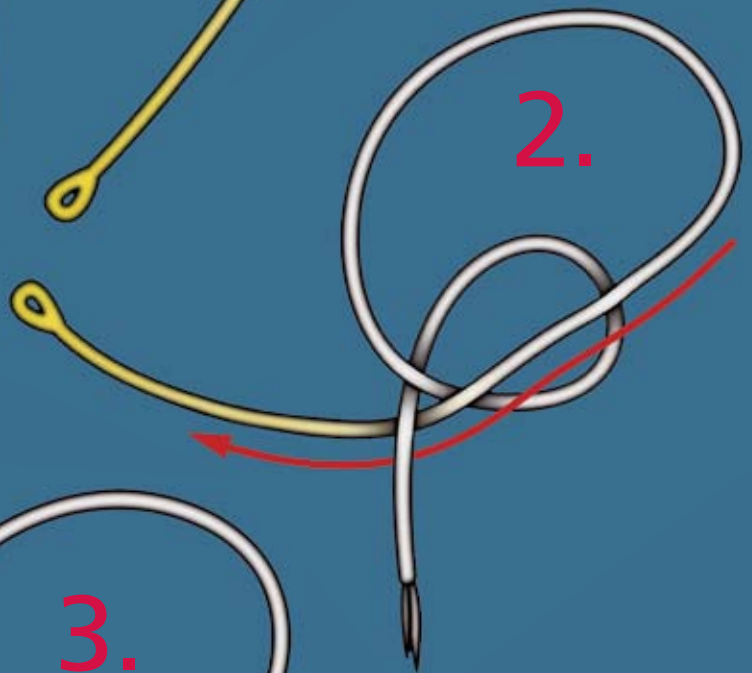
If you've ever seen Pat award a student their Red, Blue or Green Levels String, you've seen him tie this knot.

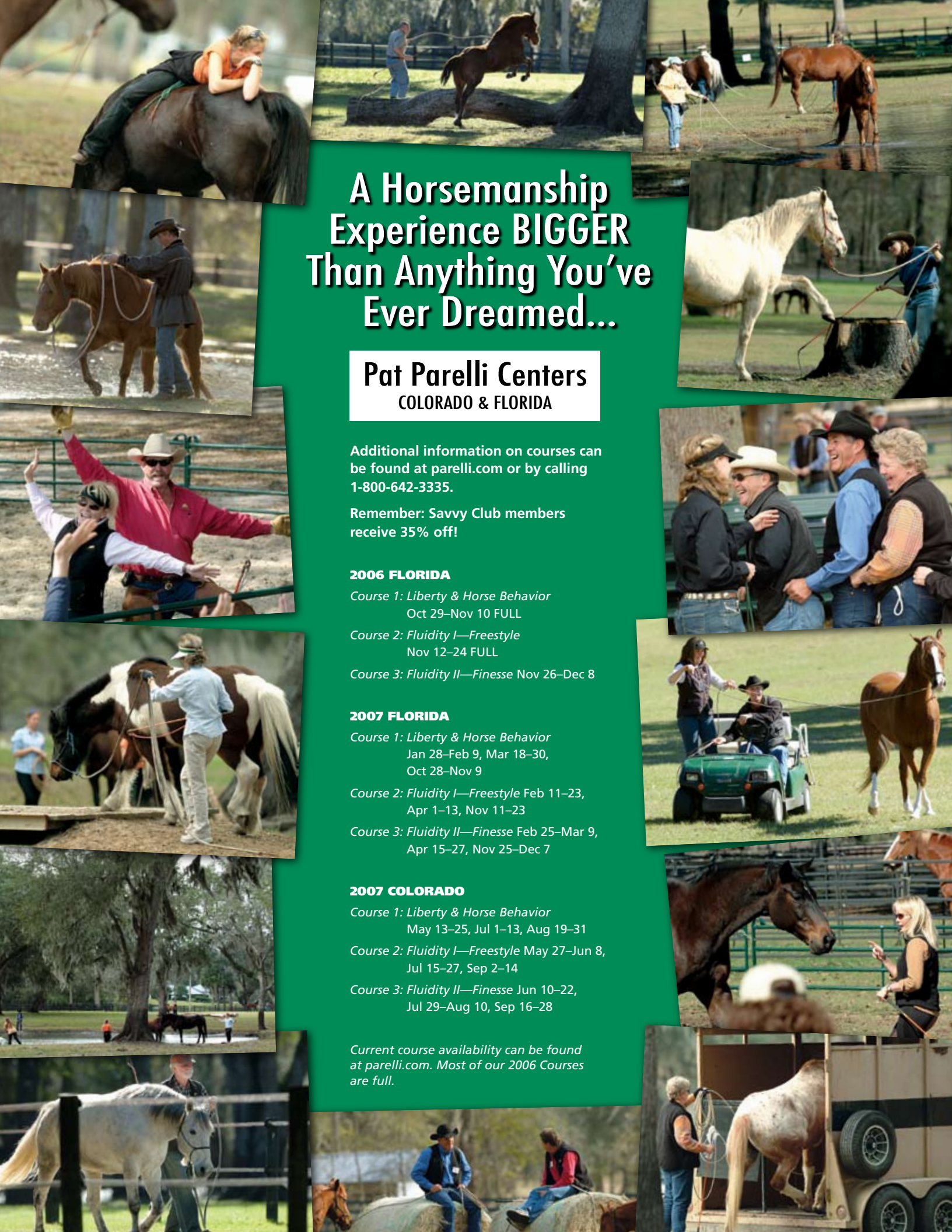
The Pretzel Knot

Caton Parelli earned his Level 3 Green String at last year's Savvy Conference.



Follow these steps using your 6-foot Savvy String and your Pretzel Knot will be revealed!





A Horsemanship Experience BIGGER Than Anything You've Ever Dreamed...

Pat Parelli Centers COLORADO & FLORIDA

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1-800-642-3335.

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receive 35% off!

2006 FLORIDA

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior
Oct 29–Nov 10 FULL

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle
Nov 12–24 FULL

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Nov 26–Dec 8

2007 FLORIDA

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior
Jan 28–Feb 9, Mar 18–30,
Oct 28–Nov 9

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle Feb 11–23,
Apr 1–13, Nov 11–23

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Feb 25–Mar 9,
Apr 15–27, Nov 25–Dec 7

2007 COLORADO

Course 1: Liberty & Horse Behavior
May 13–25, Jul 1–13, Aug 19–31

Course 2: Fluidity I—Freestyle May 27–Jun 8,
Jul 15–27, Sep 2–14

Course 3: Fluidity II—Finesse Jun 10–22,
Jul 29–Aug 10, Sep 16–28

Current course availability can be found
at parelli.com. Most of our 2006 Courses
are full.



BACK IN THE FOLD

I have been involved with Parelli since 1992, so am excited to be "back in the fold" with the Savvy Club. Over the years I have made sure to attend Parelli events in Western Australia especially when Pat was in town, including a

memorable 3-day camp in the Southwest of Western Australia and a 5-day camp with him at the State Equestrian Centre in Perth, Western Australia many years ago (highlight of my life!). Every Equitana when Pat and Linda have been there, I flew over from Western Australia and once spent a couple of days at Pagosa Springs visiting, in the early years there. Pat "saved" me and my horse all

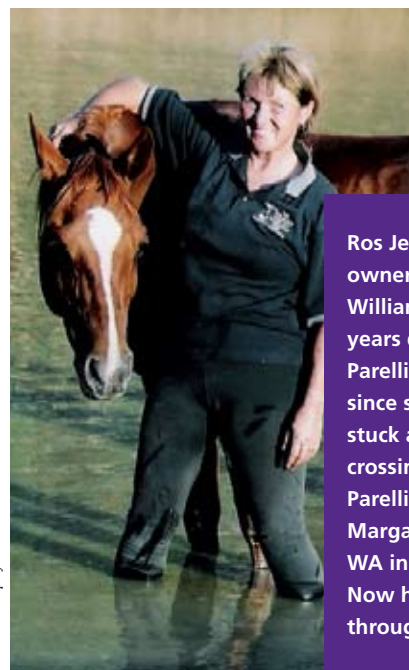
those years ago and I have learnt so much that I apply to my everyday life and relationships. With the new Level 1 and 2 DVDs, their ability to pass on their knowledge is always a revelation and inspiration. Wow, I'm gushing, but it's about time to get back on track here in Australia!

—Helen Adams, Western Australia

photo courtesy of Helen Adams



This is a good one taken at a Parelli camp a year ago when my horse was a two-year-old.



Ros Jewel, with owner Odette Williams, 11 years down the Parelli "journey" since she got stuck at a water crossing at a Pat Parelli clinic at Margaret River, WA in 1994. Now half way through Level 3.

WELCOME BACK

Just a note of approval for you picking up Australia in your scheme of things again. We have felt fairly

left out by the "Europeanization" of the Savvy Club over the last year or two, despite Australia having been fertile ground for the development of Parelli Natural

Horsemanship. Personally

I will be glad to remain with Parelli—pure from Pat and Linda, as after giving the world so much of themselves for so long, they deserve some loyalty. Plus, their program has been one of the great pleasures of my journey with horses, and I am proud to have been learning their program since their 1994 visit to Margaret River, Western Australia. I was the one with the young chestnut Arab filly that got stuck at a small water crossing on a trail ride, and am forever indebted to Pat for instructing me through that occasion and giving such enlightenment ever since. Their teaching material continues to surpass each previous thing in excellence. Congratulations, and welcome back to Australia. We never left you.

—Odette Williams, Western Australia

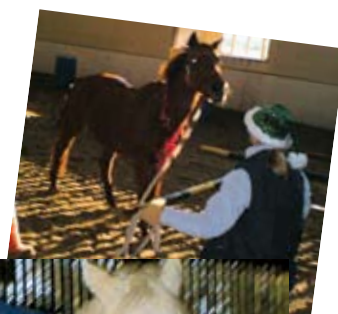


HEARTFELT SUPPORT

Unbelievable—the pack, DVDs and magazine arrived this morning—not even sure how something can get here so quickly from the States!!!!!!

I screamed with delight when I realized what it was, and got straight on the phone to organize a video night this weekend—it's brilliant as we will be able to fit two sessions in before Victoria's next Level 2 workshop.

Once again, I am overwhelmed by the level of customer service Parelli US is showing our dedicated Devon group (and the UK as a whole). At the UK "conference," it was myself ably assisted by the Devon crew who ensured a massive standing ovation was given to Pat and Linda on Sunday morning, we spent Saturday evening frantically ringing/texting key people and speaking to as many people as possible in the hotel to guarantee the most rousing reception we could muster.



photos courtesy of Fleur

A few pictures from our Christmas playday.

photo courtesy of Odette Williams

It was lovely to see this mentioned in the article about the trip to the UK!!! It was very important to us to show our heartfelt support.

On a sad note, what a shame that the UK have been missing all this wonderful material—the magazines are superlative and put the other version to shame, the quality has been slipping for quite some time, but the depth of content in the magazine alone is wonderful. I can see I will not get much work in this week as I try to cram as much material in as possible before our video night and the pack goes off on the next journey of it's round robin!!

—Fleur, Giuditta, Lightning and the Devon Parelli Purists, UK



IMAGINATION AT THE WATER TANK

When I started Level 1 six months ago, I would always go by the water tank to give my horse a drink. Cool water, under a shade tree, hot horse—I thought I was setting myself up for success—he would not drink. The “old saying” I guessed. We did this day after day all summer long—same result.

It was four months later when starting Level 2; I started using the water tank as an object because I didn't have any toys such as barrels, jumps, etc. I would drive my horse to the tank and ask him to take a drink. The first time he lowered his head and took a long drink, I could hear the “crowd roar,” as Pat would say! But I did not let the moment pass. I turned to face his hindquarters and started playing the Friendly Game, pretending that I was protecting my partner's

backside at the water hole. I am learning from Parelli that the goal is never the end but only the beginning, so I started over the next few weeks to ask him to leave the water when I walked away and then sent him back to drink again. We are where I can stand at the end of the 22-foot Line and send him to the tank for water up to 8 times. I don't do this 8 times all the time but 4 or 5 times. I'm afraid of giving him a stomachache by over doing it—especially with ice in the water. It is a game we play every morning. I haven't tried this with any other horse but I have tried it at different times of the day to see if he would still do it. What does this mean? Is he now starting to accept me as a partner and will lower his head and drink with a predator at the watering hole? My goal now is to start doing this at liberty. The new saying is, “You can lead a horse to water, ask passively and persistently, and he will drink.”

—Judy Parker, Tennessee



CHILLING OUT

3-Star Instructor Jackie Chant of New Zealand demonstrates her very special relationship with her 19-year-old Thoroughbred ‘Archie’ that she started the Parelli program with in 1997. Once a very emotional ex-racehorse that Pat described as an 8.5 ‘chili’ on the sensitivity scale, now a calm, very smart, brave and extremely athletic partner who Jackie says is by far the best friend and teacher she has ever had!



Jackie Chant, a 3-Star Instructor, demonstrating her relationship with her 19-year-old Thoroughbred Archie.

photo courtesy of Jackie Chant

TRIAL OF NEW RECREATIONAL ROPE PRODUCT FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY!

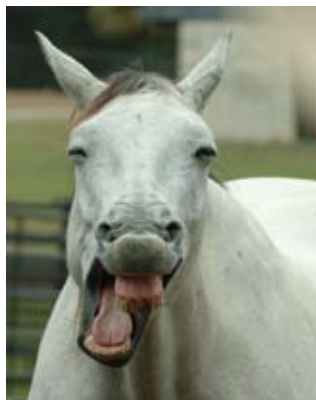
Announcing our new Recreational Grade 12-foot and 22-foot Lines. This rope has Pat and Linda's approval as a Recreational Grade product and can be sold at a lower cost. 12-foot Lines are available to members for \$22.49 and 22-foot Lines are available for \$35.24 to Club members only.

Savvy Club members, please give us your feedback on this new product! When you receive your Recreational Grade product, it will include a link to our online survey where we'll ask you a few questions to rate the rope's feel and quality. This product does not carry our standard warranty, but can be returned within 30 days with receipt if unused and in its original packaging.



Savvy Club Forum

The Forum is a great resource for Savvy Club members only. While it is not a place to find training information (that's what the Parelli Program, Virtual Instructor and Parelli Professionals are for), it is a place to meet fellow Savvy Club members, share stories and chat about everything Parelli. Includes a special Classifieds section. To log on and check out the Forum, just log-in to parellisavvyclub.com. Click on the "Savvy Club Forum" link at the top of the page and then select "Register" from the top menu. This will take you through a few easy registration steps. Now you're set to explore existing posts or create your own! And when you log into the Savvy Club web site, check out the member locator option!



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This is your Club and we want you to contribute! Send us your home movies of savvy or fun moments with your horse for us to share with other Savvy Club members on the monthly DVDs. Videos must be no longer than 10 minutes. Send your tapes to

Parelli; Attn: Savvy Club Video Department; PO Box 3729 or 56 Talisman, Suite 6; Pagosa Springs; Colorado 81147.

Do you have stories or photos you'd like to share, too? Send them in! Mail can be sent to the address above, Attn: Savvy Times, or you can e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com.

CHANGE TO WELCOME PACKS

As of March 2, members joining the Savvy Club receive a Savvy Club baseball cap instead of a T-shirt in their Welcome packs. Current members stay tuned to e-News... we'll let you know when the cap is available for purchase.



WELCOME TO OUR FRIENDS DOWN UNDER

As of February 1, 2006, the new branch office in Sydney is open and offers Australians and New Zealanders the opportunity to enroll in the Savvy Club. You'll notice we've added "International" to the name and logo of the Club. As we go to press, the infrastructure to allow web purchases from these countries are being put into place. Parelli.com and the Australian branch continue to provide support to a network of endorsed Parelli Professional Instructors currently teaching in Australia and New Zealand.

Thank you for sharing your journey with us and being part of this worldwide movement. Parelli Savvy Club membership in Canada, Switzerland, and Italy still operates through our Distributors. We appreciate everyone who is a member of our worldwide Parelli family!



Chat Rooms Now Available!

As of January 27, Chat Rooms are now available to Club members. Log in to parellisavvyclub.com and check it out.



TOUR STOP ADMISSION

We ask that Savvy Club members reserve their seats at Tour stops by requesting a ticket for themselves and anyone who is attending on their membership. You are helping us keep a head count to ensure everyone gets a seat.

To request your free tickets log in to the Savvy Club web site

(www.parellisavvyclub.com), click on the new link for tickets and fill out the online form. Please note you can only request as many member tickets as the number of people on your membership. In addition to your member tickets, you can request up to five buddy passes for friends. If you are having problems logging in, please call the customer service department at 1-800-642-3335 or e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com.



DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT & MEMBERSHIP CARD

Requesting tickets will get you in free to all the Parelli Tour stops, but don't forget your Parelli Passport and membership card. Your passport can be stamped at the Savvy Club booth with a unique stamp at every Tour stop or major Parelli event. Document your journey! And your card will be swiped to add your 25% discount to your purchases at the show.

COLT STARTING RETURNS AS A STUDY TOPIC AT THE PARELLI CENTERS!

This summer in Colorado and next winter in Florida we are offering Parelli Professional Horsemanship Development Courses, majoring in Colt Starting. These courses are available alone or as part of our University Modules. Read more at parelli.com. Choose Courses, then Parelli University.

Pictured right: Pat Parelli gives a Colt Starting demonstration with Frontier at the 2001 Savvy Conference.

MEMBERS NOW RECEIVE 25% OFF!

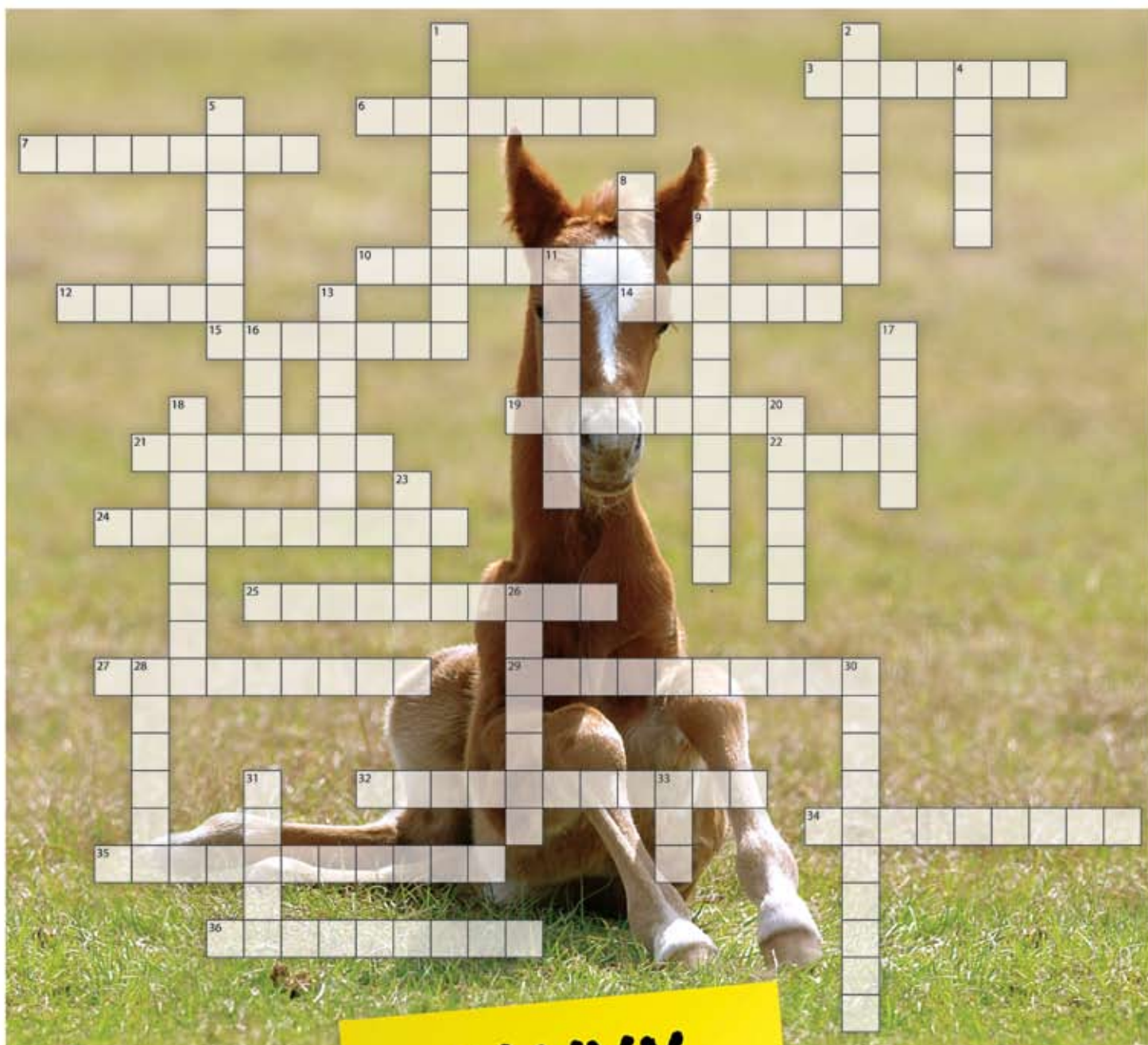
You've been asking for it, and NOW we can deliver. As of March 17, members receive 25% off all Parelli education and equipment! This offer applies for members whether they order on the web, call us by phone or make a purchase at a tour stop. (Note: Course Discounts remain at 35%)

When completing an order in the Parelli web shop, make sure that the system has recognized you as a Savvy Club Member. When you are properly recognized, the upper right hand corner will say, "Welcome (your user name). You are a Savvy Club Member." The log in page explains the steps you need to take to make sure you are recognized. If you have followed all of the steps and still have problems, please e-mail savvyclub@parelli.com or call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU).

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PARELLI E-NEWS

Parelli e-News is our official weekly newsletter. Find out about special offers, Tour updates, RFD-TV programming, new releases, tips and more. Call 1-800-642-3335 (US) or 1800 460 988 (AU) to update your e-mail information with us to have e-News conveniently delivered to your In Box. Some e-mail programs do have spam blockers that prevent delivery. Don't worry! E-News is updated every Thursday at www.parelli.com.





SAVVY Crossword

Answers can be found on page 42
 Tip: Most of the words from the
 crossword can be found
 in the Parelli programs.
 It's O.K. to let your parents help.
 They may have fun, too!



Across

3. What you're looking for in Level 3
6. This Game goes round and round
7. The most important key of Pat's "Six Keys of Success"
9. "Slow and _____ beats fast and wrong"
10. You better be this if you're playing Game #1
12. "Principles, Purpose and Time are the _____ of teaching"
14. "When you're playing _____, pretend you are at Liberty"
15. This Game sends the horse between, over and under
19. Game #6 helps your horse do this
21. We'd all like our horses to act like this
22. Attitude, Knowledge, Tools, Techniques, _____, and Imagination
24. The Driving Game teaches your horse to move from this
25. Great relationships require equal doses of Love, Language and...
27. This Savvy is about riding with loose reins
29. Partnership, Harmony, _____
32. Level 1 helps you create this with your horse
34. The second most important key of the "Six Keys of Success"
35. Einstein said this is more valuable than knowledge
36. If unconfidence/fear is "Right Brain" then confidence/
dominance is this

Down

1. A cute little spiky critter that helps us remember Game #2
2. The thrill of playing with horses with "no strings attached"
4. This is what we are all seeking with horses, Pat calls it "understanding times ten!"
5. There are "Six Keys" that lead to this
8. In this Game your horse backs away from you and comes forward to you equally
9. The Friendly Game^{#1} is about "Rhythm, _____ and Retreat"
11. You do this in a car and it's also Game #3
13. Doing this helps build a horse's confidence
16. You should do this when your horse tries to do what you want
17. Pat Parelli is world famous for inventing Seven of these
18. If you have this, you can "talk" with your horse
20. The Porcupine Game^{#2} is about this kind of pressure
23. That special feeling you have for your horse
26. Level 2 helps you and your horse experience this
28. If you have this it's good for dancing and good for playing with horses
30. One of the "Six Keys of Success" that makes you "handy" with horses
31. If you do this it will help you be friendly when playing Game #1
33. "If he's blinking he's thinking, if he's not he's _____"

Dear Linda,

My name is Gabriella Sanchez. I am 8 years old and my mom went to one of your courses. I was mad that I didn't get to go with her to Florida. Can you PLEASE make courses for kids?!!!!

I was wondering if you could help me with my new pony? Her name is Magic because she is magical like Pat's horse. I am studying level 2 and Magic won't circle or back up but she can certainly run fast!

Sincerely,
Gabriella Sanchez

Dear Gabriella,

I'd say your horse is a cold-blood, is icing you out, coolly ignoring you. I'm not sure what to advise you.. I've never seen a horse this extreme!

Love,
Linda



photos courtesy of Gabriella Sanchez



During the Craig Johnson Basics Of Reining Clinic in Cottonwood, Craig said that simple lead changes don't make sense to horses, and can hamper getting flying lead changes. He has students do it a different way (straight lines and shoulder moves). Per Craig, he and Pat talked about lead changes in general and Pat agreed that simple lead changes don't make sense to a horse in terms

of teaching them anything about flying lead changes. Pat has them in Level 2 before flying lead changes because Levels 1 through 3 are about teaching the rider. Pat and Craig should be in sync on flying lead changes.



Pat's whole theory is that simple changes lead to flying changes when done naturally. Most reiners never do drop to trot (simple) lead changes because they believe it makes a lazy flying change.

These are two different maneuvers that are very important for riders to learn and for horses to be able to do. In classical dressage, flying changes are often taught from canter to walk to canter, and canter to halt to canter. These are, in effect, 'simple' changes because they involve a change of gait.

There are many ways to teach a horse a flying change when you know how, but the most important way to teach a rider who has never done them is through simple changes first... this way they really understand the positioning of horses to get easy leads.

The flying change basically involves changing from one lead to the other without changing gait... but the rider needs to know how to control their own body for this, to stay engaged and to keep the horse's body aligned and the weight back on the haunches.

Sometimes messages can get confused. We think very highly of Craig Johnson and his abilities as a trainer. Thanks for checking with us regarding this comment.

See Pat and Linda's Leads and Lead Changes demo at the 2005 Savvy Conference on the November 2005 Savvy Club DVD, Issue 13.





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Meet the Faculty

Ever wonder how Pat and Linda are able to run a successful business, two ranches, teach and present their program around the world? They have a great support team to back them up. Here we feature some of those team members and ask them what their jobs are like. This issue meet the faculty from the Parelli Centers: John Baar, Kathy Baar, Lyla Cansfield, Tina Giordano, Don Jessop, Rachel Jessop, Jesse Peters and Jerry Williams.

John Baar



Kathy Ackerman-Baar



Lyla Cansfield



Tina Giordano



Don Jessop



Rachel Jessop



Jesse Peters



Jerry Williams



Where are you originally from?

John: Longmont, Colorado

Kathy: Columbus, Ohio

Lyla: London, United Kingdom

Tina: Ventura, California

Don: Hamilton, Montana

Rachel: Auckland, New Zealand

Jesse: Ansonia, Ohio

Jerry: Manhattan, Kansas

How were you introduced to Parelli?

John: I first saw Pat in a magazine article jumping bareback and bridleless. I became intrigued and found a local Parelli Professional.

Kathy: Equine Affair in Columbus, Ohio.

Lyla: A friend who was anything but passive (but certainly persistent)! Good thing, too.

Tina: Through a friend who met Pat when Pat and Linda first came to Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Don: Video tape from a friend.

Rachel: At a Dr. Robert Miller seminar.

Jesse: I used to teach in a high school horsemanship program in Ohio. I needed to find a horsemanship program that had a great foundation and safety built into it—enter Pat and Linda at the Ohio Equine Affair. I have been addicted ever since.

Jerry: I first discovered it on the internet. Then went down to a local tack shop and bought Pat's book. Then bought the Mega Kit, and never looked back.

How long have you worked for Parelli?

John: On and off for a year including being on tour and faculty starting January 2006.

Kathy: In various capacities including: working student and school and uni student and general ranch work since 2001.

Tina: On tour for a month last Spring, as a faculty member since October.

Don: 3 years: ranch, tour, uni student, faculty.

Rachel: I'm in my fifth season with Parelli from working student to customer co-ordinator to university student to tour to faculty.

Jesse: 3 months (since October 2005).

Jerry: January 29, 2006.

What does being a faculty member entail?

John: Care of lease horses, teaching short/long term students, self-im-

provement of my own horsemanship.

Kathy: I've just started the faculty training about two weeks ago. So far I have been spending time with Linda and the rest of the faculty preparing content for the next six weeks.

Lyla: Training with Pat and Linda to ensure purity of their message to the students, development in teachermanship and horsemanship on a daily basis, supporting the students that have contact with the Parelli Centers on their journeys to fulfill their dreams.

Tina: Lots of studying—theory, horsemanship, new ideas, teaching skills.

Don: Lots of stuff.

Rachel: Being positive and progressive in learning, studying, teaching and horsemanship.

Jesse: The faculty positions here at the ranch are some of the most exciting positions this year! We are charged with the task of carrying the educational experience torch here on the ranch. We hope that everyone who spends time with us here becomes empowered to read their horse and deals with each situation appropriately.

Jerry: Preparing and presently classroom info, giving demos, leading Remudas* and problem solving with students and student horses.

Please share with us some details of your horsemanship journey and goals. In addition to Parelli studies, do you have any other hobbies/interests?

John: Another interest I have is auto graphics, where I've worked for the past six years, specializing in motorcycles including work for Thunder Mountain Cycles, Brooks & Dunn, Garth Brooks Foundation and the New York Yankees.

Kathy: Before discovering Parelli I worked for some professional predators and was ready to quit horses altogether. Then I saw Pat and my dream seemed attainable. Some of my other interests are swimming, watching movies and boating.

Lyla: I was the typical 'pony-mad' little girl living in a big city, and was fortunate to have the perfect first pony to look after me as a teenager. I grew up, got a job, moved into management for a large engineering company, got horses again at 24, found Parelli and left engineering and management for good! That's the short version. My goal is to return to the UK and form part of a truly awesome united team of instructors over

there. Horsemanship Goals: to have truly wonderful relationships with my four legged friends and help others do the same. I also love to sing and dance!

Tina: My goals as a horseman are to always continue learning. For me it's a journey. Hobbies: reading, listening to music, movies and travel.

Don: I started in endurance riding, came to Parelli and never looked back. I really like playing basketball, unicycling and sometimes combine both.

Rachel: I started in Pony Club, then on to eventing and dressage. A difficult horse helped me to search many things until I found Parelli. Goals: compete at an international/Olympic level—dressage, jumping. Interests: family, friends, body flow, running and guitar.

Jesse: I have been studying Parelli for four years. I introduced the home study, Levels system to my high school students for their own exploration in their journeys. At the Indianapolis 2004 tour stop I was selected to have a lesson with Linda to help develop my Fluidity. I have played on two different Savvy Teams in 2005 (Columbus, Ohio and Louisville, Kentucky). My other hobbies and interests include cowboy mounted shooting competitions, and my family shows sheep all over the mid-West.

Jerry: When I was in the 10 week school, I thought it would be great to teach at the Center and stay long enough to really get to know the students. At the time there was no permanent faculty. I'm living my dream.

What's the best and worst part of your job?

John: Best: Seeing the changes in both people and horses throughout the courses. Worst: I don't think there is a bad side to my job.

Kathy: Best: Constantly being in an environment to learn and ask questions. Worst: Not enough hours in the day.

Lyla: Best: Seeing people progress.

Tina: The variety and challenges each day presents.

Don: The best is working directly with Pat and Linda. The worst is

running out of daylight.

Rachel: One-on-one time with Pat and Linda.

Jesse: The best part of my job is helping people achieve their horsemanship dreams. Worst part: Spending time away from Ohio family and friends.

Jerry: Student questions! I love answering questions, but some can be pretty tough!

Give an example of what your typical work day is like.

Kathy: N/A as I have just started.

Lyla: "Typical?!" Teaching or supporting theory and demonstration sessions each morning. Running for lunch and being available during student experimentation sessions in the afternoons. Squeezing in office/admin work whenever I can! Studying for the next course around those things.

Tina: 6:00am wake up, 6:30 personal horsemanship time or office work, 9:00 class starts—theory in the morning, horsemanship workshops in the afternoon, 6:30 dinner, 7:30 study and prep for the next day, 10:00 bed.

Don: Very busy, exciting, full of new learning and growth. A lot of time with students and horses.

Rachel: There is nothing typical but students, learning, growing and fun.

Jesse: A typical work day includes checking on and playing with my horse, Roger, at 7:00am. We meet with our small group of students at 9:00am. We play with problem solving, demos and lectures up until lunch. The best part of my day is when we get to see the students in action as they experiment with their learning and lessons.

Jerry: Remuda* in the morning, then class room lecture, a demo in the late morning or afternoon then simulations with individual time in the afternoon.

**Remudas are small Q&A and problem solving groups of approximately 15 students. The term comes from the Spanish word for "herd."*



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—Linda Parelli

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Chemical based nutrition used in other supplements have absorption rates as low as 2–3% and leave toxic residue in the horses body. Until now equine supplements have been animal grade fillers with chemicals added for nutrition.

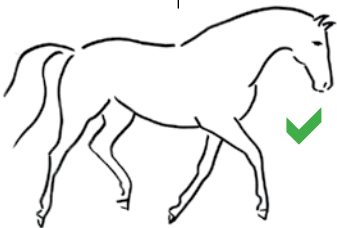
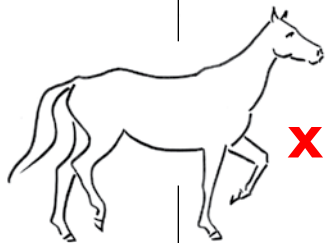
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Parelli Fluidity—Hill

Studying the posture, musculature and movement of horses is an important component of our Fluidity Program. Horses that have been ridden often look very different from horses that have never been ridden, and unfortunately they usually don't look better!



Hill Therapy can completely transform a horse's posture and movement.

In ridden horses, here are some of the common issues:

Posture:

- "Down-hill" (hips are higher than the withers)
- Small or flat withers (mutton-withered)
- Sway, hollow or dipped back
- Strung-out hind legs
- Rotated scapula
- Rotated sacrum ("jumper's bump")
- Short neck / long back
- Ewe neck
- High tail set (instead of low and sloping)

Musculature:

- Poor top line, muscle wastage on crest, back and rump
- Irregular muscling, some are underdeveloped and some are overdeveloped
- Thin withers
- Overdeveloped 'underline' (under neck, lower chest, forearms, gaskins, and top of hip)
- Dropped belly
- Thin neck

Movement:

- Short, choppy strides
- Heavy on forehand
- Hind legs weak, 'disengaged', can't come under the body, are strung out behind
- Inability to 'collect' or engage
- Stiff in the body or neck
- Stiff in the legs, doesn't bend joints well
- Doesn't use whole body
- Pulls itself along with the forelegs vs pushing with hind legs

As you can imagine, on-going issues like this can lead to a horse breaking down in the long term, usually in the areas they over use to compensate for not sharing the load through the entire body such as the stifle, lower back, suspensories, hocks, and not to mention the knee joints from landing heavily on the forehand.



Therapy

by Linda Parelli



When I started the Hill Therapy Program with Remmer two years ago, he pulled himself up the hill with his front legs. Now he rounds his whole body and pushes powerfully.



HOW DO HORSES GET INTO THIS CONDITION WHEN RIDDEN?

Unfortunately a lot of this happens from ignorance. Riders place their saddle too far forward and add weight to the forehand making it more difficult for the horse to carry his weight equally or more on the hindquarters... which is important for collection and engagement.

Many saddles are also pretty restrictive for the horse. When too long in the bars the horse's back is held more rigid interrupting the flow of energy through the whole body. As a result the neck often gets small while the hip gets bigger. When the saddle is too narrow it pinches the horse on the shoulders and around the spine causing muscle wastage. The reason the muscles waste are usually:

1. From lack of use.
2. The horse escapes the pinching pressure by hollowing his back and not using it at all.
3. When the horse tries to flex and expand his muscles, the pinching restricts the muscles and retards their development.

The second reason is the rider. When the rider restricts a horse's movement, pulls on the reins constantly or leans forward on the forehand they will block the flow of energy through the whole horse much like a poor saddle does. Probably the worst is when they use a 'driving seat' and literally push the horse's back down with every stride.

Can you imagine now how damaging the combination of a rigid rider and a restrictive saddle would be?!

STOP RIDING SO THE HORSE CAN HEAL

Here's the hard part... some people are so obsessed with riding that they would have a lot of trouble staying off his back so he can heal. If the horse had blown a suspensory or went lame or had an injury, we'd do it because of understanding that he needs rest, but to do it when the horse is not limping or acting hurt is sometimes difficult to comprehend. But think of it this way, the horse is an injury waiting to happen... and it may be something that ends his riding days forever. That's what you call a broken down horse; you've just got to see it coming and act on it now to prevent it.

A SIMPLE YET INCREDIBLY EFFECTIVE TREATMENT THAT TAKES ABOUT SIX WEEKS: HILL THERAPY

1. You need to *remove all the things that could be causing* the horse to change his posture and way of moving, namely the saddle and the rider.
2. You need to exercise the horse for a *specific amount of time in a specific way* so he can find his way to move more naturally again. In some cases the horse's movement has been altered from the first day they ever carried a saddle and rider, and over the years they have actually habituated to it, they've completely changed their natural way of moving even without a rider on them. They need to learn how to use their whole body.
3. Hills are the best medicine. *You don't want a steep hill*, just an incline that encourages the horse to use himself more efficiently.



- a. A small incline, say 10 degrees, is ideal for trot and canter.
- b. 15–20 degrees would only be suitable for walk and trot.
- c. Anything steeper than that should only be at the walk.

Note: This should not be physically stressful for the horse because you are trying to restore his health, not wear him out more!

Send your horse out on a circle using a 22-foot Line. A 12-foot Line is too short and a 45-foot is too long! This is not the 'Circling Game' so don't worry about your horse changing gait. See the troubleshooting/questions section at the end for possible issues you may have.

(If you don't have hills, use barrels or barrel-sized logs (18 inches high) placed on the circle at three o'clock and nine o'clock. You would use a 22-foot Line.)

Finally, the horse must be sound, not limping or sore to move because he has an injury or arthritis or a bad back. Hill Therapy does not help a broken down horse, it restores one that is breaking down.



THE HILL THERAPY PROGRAM

Week 1: DAILY for 7 days

5 minutes circling.

2 minutes rest.

5 minutes circling in the other direction.

Week 2: Three times per week

5 minutes circling.

2 minutes rest.

5 minutes circling in the other direction.

Week 3-6: Twice per week

5 minutes circling.

2 minutes rest.

5 minutes circling in the other direction.

Note: If the horse is fit, you could double the times by Week 3. But if the horse is not very fit and the worse its condition, take it easy and go slower.

After that you shouldn't need to do it anymore unless something causes the horse to deteriorate again. It makes sense that you would also need to check the suitability of your saddle and how shims may help (see my saddling article in *Savvy Times* January 2005, Issue 6) and address your Fluidity skills (New Level 1 and 2 programs).



RESULTS!

In just six weeks the transformation can be significant. You'll see the stride lengthen, back and neck muscles smooth out and develop, short necks lengthen, long backs shorten, strong under necks and dropped bellies tighten up, withers come up, high tail sets go down... it's quite amazing.

Many people cannot understand how horses can change their "conformation" so quickly, but actually, it's not their conformation. Conformation is all about the skeleton, the size and length and proportions of the bones. Posture is all about the soft tissue, muscle tone and development. Muscles hold the skeleton in place and that's why a horse can change shape.

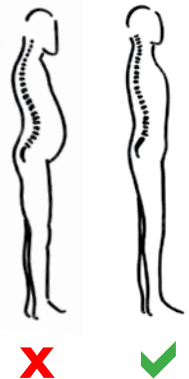
Try this... stand with your shoulders rounded and belly sticking out. Now stand up straight... Do you see how dramatically different you look just because you changed your posture? How do you tell a horse to stand up straight? How do you tell him to use his whole body when he moves? You can't do this like you would with another person. You have to set it up so it occurs naturally. By asking your horse to keep moving, and setting it up to be a bit awkward because he has to take care of his balance going up and down hills, he finds a way to move much more efficiently. Part of the reason you have to do this for six weeks is because it has to become a new habit.

TROUBLESHOOTING

• Your horse keeps changing gait while circling.

Don't worry about it! I know, that can be hard, but remember this is not the Circling Game. It's a therapy. While your horse is trying to figure out how to move better, he'll probably change gait a lot, in fact the worse shape he's in the more likely he is to change gait. Usually what you see is them slowing down on the way up the hill and speeding up on the way down because they 'fall' down the hill on their forehead and can't push well enough and round their back on the way up.

Use barrels or barrel-sized logs if you don't have hills.



Conformation is all about the skeleton. Posture is about soft tissue, muscle tone and development.

Allow your horse to change gait, wait for half a lap and then ask him to take up the original gait again. If you make him feel wrong for breaking gait he'll get emotionally upset and tense in his body. You need him to be soft, confident and relaxed which will come with patience and understanding. Remember, he's having trouble in his body so don't force him through it.

- ***Your horse keeps coming in to you.***

Smile, rub him and politely send him on his way again. Don't sacrifice the relationship over his body!

- ***Your horse keeps trying to snatch grass as he goes around.***

Great... he's stretching his back! Allow him to grab a mouthful, count to three and ask him to move on again. Then each time allow less time... three seconds, two seconds, one second. Just don't let it bother you or your horse will use it to rattle you!

- ***Nothing seems to be happening!***

At first your horse will probably have a lot of trouble making a circle. He'll make oblongs in trying to shorten the up hill and down hill parts... he'll have terrible posture, speed up and slow down, even look really uneven and almost lame as he hollows out and stiff-legs it on the downhill run... he may even stop dead before going down the hill... or bend his body all wrong... or not want to go in one direction at all.



X (above)
Not round canter

✓ (below)
Round canter

Just know that all this is quite usual. He's experimenting and pretty soon the changes will come. What you must not do is try to correct everything, just observe and understand why. It

seems to be by the fourth day that the biggest change can be observed and right up until then you could see little or no improvement at all!

But then the prize comes... the neck stretches down... the back starts to round up, the strides get softer, longer, springy... his balance improves, he's not on the forehand anymore... he doesn't change speed or rhythm on any part of the circle... and you start to notice subtle changes in his muscling like overdeveloped areas getting smaller and underdeveloped areas building up. It's very exciting.

- ***Is it better to trot or canter rather than walk?***

Not necessarily because you can change the grade of the slope you use to cause the horse to use himself more efficiently. It's not about working up a sweat or tiring out your horse. What you can think about is asking for the canter towards the end of the program, say Week 4 to help develop your horse's balance at that gait.

Chin is tucked but body is not round. This happens just before horse begins to figure out how to use his whole body.



- **Why wouldn't you keep doing it?**

Because it shouldn't be necessary. Once you've brought the horse back to health physically, you maintain it with ground skills and good riding and saddles. This is remedial therapy so once the horse is healed you shouldn't have to keep doing it.

- **In what situations would you NOT do Hill Therapy?**

If your horse was...

- Too green, meaning uneducated. Put the mental and emotional first so Hill Therapy is really not recommended until a good way through Level 2 as a minimum. If you do this too early in a horse's education or relationship with you, problems such as pulling away or boredom could result. At the right time, horses get to understand that there's something to this. They feel the benefits, get to know the routine and can actually seem to enjoy it.
- Lameness.
- Too old. I would probably not do this with a horse that was older than 17 unless it was in good health, no arthritis. And even then I would probably only do it at the walk on a slightly steeper incline. You have to be mindful that wear and tear on old joints is not what you want.



- Sway back. I would use walking cavalettis/poles instead and over a much longer period of time. Where exercise is indicated but needs to be minimal physical stress/impact, walking over a cavaletti can be a good substitute. It helps horses to stretch their backs and use their top line but is not as efficient in getting horses to dramatically change the way they move.
- Locking stifles. Check with your vet first. We've had some very good reports about changes in this problem but you need to be careful. It would be best at the walk, over a longer period of time. 🐾

For a sway back, use cavalettis/poles instead of an incline or barrels.



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A P A R E L L I P R E F E R R E D P R O D U C T

Home on the Cover-All Range

Linda and Pat Parelli have searched far and wide for the best riding arena. After careful consideration, they chose Cover-All.

"I've always disliked metal and wood coverings for arenas. There's nothing worse than the rat-a-tat-tat sounds during a rainstorm and metal clanking noises, especially when you're training," says Pat. "Design is critical when it comes to making a decision on an indoor riding arena, all aspects of architectural appeal should be considered in order to make the best decision."

"Did I mention how great the acoustics are? It's amazing how the shape of the building and material allow the sound to be clear and crisp; communication is something that we're all about."

"The Cover-All is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. This ability to adapt to temperatures is really important. It provides perfect protection from the wind, and the snow just slides off in the winter. Our Cover-All is what I call a 'Savvy Building'."

—Pat Parelli



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A man in a red polo shirt and white pants is riding a brown horse. He is smiling and holding a white cowboy hat up in the air with his right hand. The background is a blurred indoor arena with metal beams and lights.

Luca Moneta:

IN LOVE WITH HORSES AGAIN

It isn't hard to fall in love with horses and Luca Moneta learned this first-hand at an early age. Awed by this magnificent animal and gifted at handling and riding them, he decided to make his career with horses.

Since childhood, Luca's dream was to become a federal instructor, trainer and competitor. Hard-working and dedicated, he wasted no time making those dreams a reality. At the age of 20, Luca became the youngest recognized riding instructor in Italy, having passed the rigorous government testing required to be able to teach other instructors.

Although he taught and competed in dressage, eventing and jumping, his great passion has always been jumping. Luca pursued this interest and polished his talents, studying with the best horsemen in the world until he was riding and competing at the Grand Prix level internationally.

"I had good horses, good sponsors, good money, good students and success," says Luca. But with all that, as the

"MY GOAL IS NOT TO WIN, BUT TO SHOW OTHER RIDERS THAT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HORSES."

years passed he felt something was missing. "To be at the highest performance levels, I felt I had to be forceful with the horses. If you wanted to stay at that level of competition sometimes you had to use too much pressure on the horse."

Frustrated by the fact that strong methods were used to force horses to submit, both physically and mentally, Luca knew that something had to change if he was going to continue competing at the international level. He was convinced there had to be a way to still obtain success with horses without resorting to violence or pain.

A photo in a newspaper opened the doors to the change he was seeking and Luca was at last introduced to Parelli Natural Horsemanship. His journey with horses has since taken a dramatic change and he is determined to share his amazing discoveries with other horsemen and women in the sport of show jumping around the world. Today, his greatest satisfaction comes from seeing international level riders recognizing the benefits of Parelli and using Natural Horsemanship with their horses.

Luca recently participated in a Parelli demonstration in Europe with Pat, Linda and the Savvy Team. Luca spoke about how the Parelli program changed his mind when he was considering quitting and then gave a high level jumping exhibition. He rode Ciccio, a horse that had previously been thought of as too dangerous and difficult to train. The crowd voiced its approval when Luca and Ciccio flawlessly completed the course of five-foot-plus jumps, and again

when Luca pulled off his horse's bridle and jumped the course with just a string around Ciccio's neck.

Today, Luca, 38, maintains a stable of about 70 horses near Milano, Italy. He has achieved his Level 3 and continues to compete and train his students and horses using the Parelli program.



photo courtesy of Luca Moneta

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO FIND A DIFFERENT WAY OF HANDLING HORSES?

"I wanted to communicate to my students how to have respect for the horse, but so many times the horses were frightened and suspicious. That drove me to think I had to find another way. I started refusing to use coercive, strong methods in order to force horses to submit mentally and physically. I decided that it wasn't necessary to use force to obtain good results in riding."

HOW DID YOU FIRST LEARN ABOUT PARELLI?

"I saw a picture in a newspaper from England of someone jumping without a bridle or saddle. There was no force, and I thought it was interesting. It was 1999, and that was how I began my life with Parelli."

WHAT WAS THE NEXT STEP FOR YOU?

"After I saw the photo in the paper, I attended a weekend course in Italy with Parelli instructor Franco Giani. Then he came to my stable and stayed for close to two years, explaining everything about Parelli to me. For me, the biggest change was in my emotions; I found I could be in love with the horses again.

"In 2002, I went to the Parelli Center in Florida for a 10-week course, and I learned a lot there. I learned the psychology of the horse better. I also learned most of my English when I came and took the course in Florida. Linda was very kind about helping me with English and was my best teacher!

"After taking this first course in Florida, I had other Parelli instructors come to my stable in Italy. By this time, I had gotten to know Pat and Linda; they have come to my stable twice already, and I have also met with them in Europe. Now I try to come to the United States twice a year to learn more Parelli."

WHAT DIFFERENCES DID YOU SEE IN YOUR HORSES ONCE YOU STARTED USING THE PARELLI PROGRAM?

"The big difference is that the traditional way was to control the horse and often to make them scared and use this reaction to get results. With Parelli, I get the horses to relax physically and mentally in a positive way. They learn to be a partner with me and to perform without any pressure. It's very exciting to see this work! Now I don't care about winning as much as I care about the horse's attitude. It's about communication, not submission."

"I often have horses sent to me that people think are difficult. Now I can communicate with them. The secret is to learn to listen to and communicate with the horse, to know his language and to forgive his mistakes, as the horse forgives so many of our mistakes."

WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE TO PARELLI FROM OTHER RIDERS IN THE WORLD OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION?

"I am trying to introduce Parelli into the show jumping discipline. This is a difficult task because it disputes some of the principles of classical riding because you have to train yourself before you can train the horse."

"I have very good opportunities to meet people in the highest levels of sport horse performance. I find that the biggest problem is in people being open and accepting something new. This is the most difficult thing. People see the difference and nobody can say it doesn't work, but it's difficult for many performers to stop doing things the traditional way."

"WITH PARELLI, I GET THE HORSES TO RELAX PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY IN A POSITIVE WAY. THEY LEARN TO BE A PARTNER WITH ME AND TO PERFORM WITHOUT ANY PRESSURE."

DO YOU REGULARLY USE THE PARELLI PROGRAM IN TRAINING YOUR HORSES?

"I use Parelli with all my horses. Now I don't think it's possible to do anything else. The Seven Games give you a picture of the mind of the horse, but once you get to Level 3 there are no 'methods.' You really become part of the horse. We can obtain everything from our horses without violence through simple communication and mutual understanding."

"I teach my students that riding is about respecting and understanding the horse. You have to learn to communicate with the horse and use his language to obtain his trust and collaboration. Now my students are choosing to speak to

their horses, to learn their language and to listen to them. They're also obtaining good results in competition."

ARE YOUR HORSES MORE SUCCESSFUL IN COMPETITION NOW THAT YOU ARE USING PARELLI METHODS TO RIDE AND TRAIN?

"Yes, but just winning is not what I'm after. The horses are happy now and they have fun; they like being part of the team. The thing is not to do Parelli to win more, but to reach the goal of being in a partnership, of having a relationship with the horse. The results of winning are just an 'accessory.' If your horse isn't happy, you are losing even if you win a medal."



photo courtesy of Luca Moneta

"My goal is not to win, but to show other riders that there's another way to have a relationship with horses. Getting the results does show them that Parelli works. I want to make the life of the sport horse happy because there are a lot of them who are unhappy. Emotionally, they are scared, and people think they are just disrespectful. Then the riders use more pressure and bigger bits, but this just makes their life harder when it's really about miscommunication between horse and rider."

WHAT DO YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT HORSES?

"Horses are very simple. They want a guide and they will follow this leader anywhere. They want security. They speak

an elementary language based on rhythmical and constant pressures. When horses are turned out at pasture they do not need all the paraphernalia and 'tools' that riders use to make them perform. On their own, they are not rigid or unbalanced or insensitive.

"The single fact that the horse lets us ride him means that he is trying to get in touch with us and find a mutual collaboration. Horses adapt to us in order to survive, but if they do this because of brutality, what satisfaction can we feel?

"I wish people would understand how the horse thinks. Just like us, horses get emotional when competing and sometimes, like us, they get scared. Too much tension

"I TEACH MY STUDENTS THAT RIDING IS ABOUT RESPECTING AND UNDERSTANDING THE HORSE. YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE HORSE AND USE HIS LANGUAGE TO OBTAIN HIS TRUST AND COLLABORATION."

prevents them from concentrating and collaborating with the rider. They aren't trying to be disrespectful, but sometimes this is what the rider thinks. The horse is an emotional, thinking animal and we need to respect and understand this. People call the horse a 'noble animal,' but then they kill his dignity without listening to his point of view."

IF YOU COULD TELL OTHER HORSEMEN AND WOMEN SOMETHING TO ALWAYS REMEMBER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"I find that in the Parelli world, there are some students who are really against the sport horse world because they think these people don't understand. But I think that if we want to make the life of the horse happier, we need to all be able to help each other without prejudice, without judging and criticism. Otherwise, we will lose people, and that doesn't help the horse.

"Ultimately, there is just one world—the world of horses. There are only two kinds of people in that world—those who already understand horses and know how to communicate with them, and those who don't know yet, but will one day. For the sake of the horse, we all need to work together and help each other learn." 🐾



Luca and Glorioso

photo courtesy of Luca Moneta



"AFTER CREATING THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, THE BIRDS OF THE AIR AND THE FISHES OF THE SEA, GOD FOUND IT GOOD TO BESTOW ON MAN A SUPREME MARK OF HIS FAVOUR: HE CREATED THE HORSE. IN THE MAGNIFICENT SEQUENCE OF CREATION, THE LAST PHASE, THAT OF PERFECTION, WAS RESERVED FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL CREATURE. THE HORSE WAS SWIFTER THAN ANYTHING ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH; HE COULD OUTFRONT THE DEER, LEAP HIGHER THAN THE GOAT, ENDURE LONGER THAN THE WOLF. MAN, ENCOMPASSED BY THE ELEMENTS WHICH CONSPIRED TO DESTROY HIM, BY BEASTS FASTER AND STRONGER THAN HIMSELF, WOULD HAVE BEEN A SLAVE, HAD NOT THE HORSE MADE HIM KING. IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN THE HORSE WAS OF NO SERVICE TO MAN, BUT THE FALL OF MAN REVEALED TO THE HORSE HIS NOBLE MISSION."—18TH CENTURY FRENCH AUTHOR

In the beginning, we were adversaries... the predator and the prey animal. And then something happened—nature's instincts stepped aside and made way for the partnership that has been the very foundation of mankind as we now know it. History has left no direct account for it. Yet, for over 50 centuries of human civilization, the horse has been man's equal.

For the horse, man was the answer to the threat of its own extinction. As for man, the horse represented great power as a man on horseback seemed almost a different species from the humble foot soldier. In the ancient world, cultures were reared to ride better than most other men walked. The art of horsemanship became synonymous with the art of warfare because cavalry was not just another military arm; it was the bedrock of social and political power. Over time, horsemanship has been scripted to meet this need.

Horsemanship, in itself, has mystified humans for centuries. The first manual devoted solely to the art dates back to 1360 BC. Since that first work, hundreds of books have been written on the subject. And, in terms of the evolution of horsemanship, the need for survival has pushed it in the direction of developing quick shortcuts to train large quantities of individuals. Tools and techniques have been developed to this end as well, resulting in a loss of time and ability on the part of man and willful response on the part of the horse. The times have dictated this trend; survival has required it. But, with the onset

of the industrial and technological revolutions, man's dependency on the horse as a means of power has dwindled. The necessity of the relationship has waned.

Consequently, the tools and techniques of the past warring ages are no longer necessary. The notion that "this is the way that horsemanship has always been" is a false one. If we look at the rock-drawings from Altamira (2nd millennium B.C.) or at Etruscan drawings (7th century B.C.), there is evidence that suggests that both playing at liberty and riding without a bridle were the norm. In ancient times, the relationship was the foundation of horsemanship.

Years ago, we gifted the horse with the name of "equal." They were our equals in passion... our equals in spirit. The partnership between man and horse was an intimate one. As an unknown source put it "to abandon oneself in the dance with a horse is to touch the Infinite." Today, the essence of horsemanship has once again become the relationship. 🐾

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Down: 1. Porcupine, 2. Liberty, 4. Savvy, 5. Success, 8. Yo yo, 9. Relaxation, 11. Driving, 13. Retreat, 16. Quit, 17. Games, 18. Language, 20. Steady, 23. Love, 26. Harmony, 28. Rhythm, 30. Techniques, 31. Smile, 33. Hot

32. Partnership, 34. Knowledge, 35. Imagination, 36. Left Brain, 22. Time, 24. Suggestion, 25. Leadership, 27. Freestyle, 29. Refinement, 12. Tools, 14. Online, 15. Squeeze, 19. Sideways, 21. Partner, Across: 3. Finesse, 6. Circling, 7. Attitude, 9. Right, 10. Friendly,

Junior Savvy Crossword Answers

Blast from the Past

Salty Doc

in memoriam of a natural legend

blended values and attributed to some of the country's top trainers. Sally: "Doc heard his son was Pat Farnley's horse. Pat had a reputation for being able to handle tough horses, but Sally had to get two to teach him. He was a little bit of a wild one with some of the green horses he had made at National Hurdle races."

Sally was a winning Quarter Horse by Finesse Emblem (a son of One Art) and out of a daughter of Mr. 2000. He will long be remembered as Pat's partner, and for the chestnuts he exhibited in arenas across the country, and throughout the world.

Sally was a brilliant horse. He could side, spin, and stop with his front end buried in the ground. He was a real show horse. At shows, he got a lot of people's attention. As long as his long legs and holding his magnificent head high, he would anxiously wait for the cue to turn his circle, change directions, stop and spin with no wings attached.

Sally was the type of horse who could not put up with anything as mediocre as a low-level eventer. His owner had trouble keeping him for the

[illegible]

"Wow," said Pat as he became self-absorbed into the saddle. Sally stood to a stop.

"Now sit on for 20 minutes!" exclaimed her husband again. Twenty minutes? Sally thought. Pat, these twenty minutes will not sit on for anything for 20 minutes? But, he followed his mentor's advice. Pretty early that morning began to rise. After Sally's change. In full sense concentration and even some eyes. He could not see anything but the world around him. "Now, ask him to cancer driver," grinned Sally, who never missed a thing. Off they went. They did not ride, left hands, finally a sign, and another side sign. For the first time, someone had gotten through to this horse's mind, and carried it to the horse's mind. Sally said to "patience" and Sally knew herself to Pat. Pat had treated him like all the other producers had. A few months later, Pat contracted to buy Sally. The night before the transaction was to occur, Sally's wife died. Now, the owner did not want to sell the horse. He thought for Sally to be the best.

Five years later, Pat something's new to Sally's sweet's son at the Cove Palace—the man he had come to blame with, "Don't worry," the man said, "I don't blame you." Later, he went on to tell Pat that Sally had done nothing all these years—hardly even lived a moment. Based on that information, Pat plucked up the courage to contact the owner.

Sally came back to Pat. He was out of shape, with warts with deepened cracks. It would be about a year before he was able to be rid of them. To make the five year gap, the single came back the moment Sally and Pat were reunited.

With Pat's constant new on the road, Sally became an integral part of dimensions, and thus the more than seven years, the performance

in hundreds of events before tens of thousands of people—singing, shouting, raving, and cutting—mostly headless. *Italy* participated *741* at three, winning *polio* amongst participants and their homes without so much as a sideways look at the masses. It proved to people what could be done through the true unity.

Since his time with *Italy*, *Italy* has several scars and daughters in a private way. It was never *Italy*'s intention to have him commercially. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet one of his daughters, *Italy*-born *Italy* (AKA) and there are others in the wings—including one of *Italy*'s super stars, *Italy*.

Italy's daughter *Italy* of 1997, was unexpected. It happened quickly, in the event in his own

A solid gold stud, Cahn, Smart, Brown, and Abner, Mr. Channing, A-H-H-H-H-H, A legend and an honored pastor, Nelly (Doe) played a vital role with Nat in the popularization of Natural Handwriting all over the world.



We'd like to take a moment to bring you a blast from the past!
This article was published in the second magazine produced
by Parelli, "The Natural Horseman" Volume 1, Issue 2,
July/August/September 1995.

Salty Doc
in memoriam of a natural legend



Branded vicious and untalented by some of the country's top trainers, Salty Doc found his way into Pat Parelli's hands. Pat had a reputation for being able to handle tough horses, but Salty had a thing or two to teach him. To this day, Pat credits him with some of the greatest advances he has made as a Natural Horseman.

Salty was a stunning Quarter Horse by Docs Dynamo (a son of Doc Bar) and out of a daughter of Mr. 89er. He will long be remembered as Pat's partner, and for the charisma he exhibited in arenas across the country, and throughout the world.

Salty was a brilliant horse. He could slide, spin, and stop with his tail buried in the ground—with or without a bridle. At liberty, his perfor-

mances were spine tingling. Arching his long neck and holding his intelligent head high, he would attentively wait for Pat to cue him to circle, change directions, stop and spin with no strings attached.

But, Salty was the type of horse who could not put up with forceful or indifferent treatment. He often had trouble forgiving Pat for the sins of others, guilty until proven innocent. He was a tough master.

The first day Salty met Pat with his teeth bared. Pat had to lead him out with a hook on the end of a stick, just to keep him at bay. Saddled and bridled, Pat rode him a little and then asked him to side pass. The feel of the spur was all it took. Salty roared and grabbed Pat by the ankle. "It took me 10 minutes to pet my way out of that deal. He was serious."

At that moment, Pat knew that he would have to take things a little differently; this horse could not be strong-armed. Troy Henry, Pat's employer and revered mentor, was both a tough boss and a brilliant horseman. He taught Pat the true sense of the word "Horseman."

Every day Troy watched as Pat struggled with Salty. He'd make comments like, "If you would just try a little harder, you can make it even more difficult for you and that horse," and walk off.

Then, the breakthrough. After watching Pat still not making any progress, Troy told Pat that if he really wanted results, he should take off the bridle. "Chuck it over the fence." Pat went to lay it over the fence. "I said chuck it!" came the stern order. Pat chucked it, and Salty left.

Almost 30 minutes went by. Salty ran and ran and ran and ran. Troy was still at the fence, waiting for the right moment. "Turn his dream into a nightmare," he called. "Huh?" gasped Pat.

He meant for Pat to now ask the horse to keep going until he didn't want to go anymore. It didn't take long. Salty was begging to stop. "Whoa," said Pat as he burrowed down into the saddle. Salty slid to a stop. "Now sit there for 20 minutes," muttered Troy as he

ambled away. Twenty minutes anguished Pat. How could anyone sit on a horse and do nothing for 20 minutes? But, he followed his mentor's advice. Pretty soon, the harmony began to flow. Pat felt Salty change. He felt some consideration and even some respect for this cowboy on his back.

"Now, ask him to canter depart," growled Troy, who never missed a thing. Off they went. They did right leads, left leads, finally a spin, and



another slide stop. For the first time, someone had gotten through to this horse's mind, and caused it to become his idea to "partner up." Salty gave himself to Pat. Pat had not treated him like all the other predators had.

A few months later, Pat contracted to buy Salty. The night before the transaction was to occur, Salty's sire died. Now the owner did not want to sell the horse. Pat fought for Salty, but he lost the fight.

Five years later, Pat unwittingly sat next to Salty's owner's son at the Cow Palace—the man he had come to blows with. "Don't worry," the son said, "I don't blame you." Later, he went on to tell Pat that Salty had done nothing all these years—hardly even bred a mare. Based on that information, Pat plucked up the courage to contact the owner.

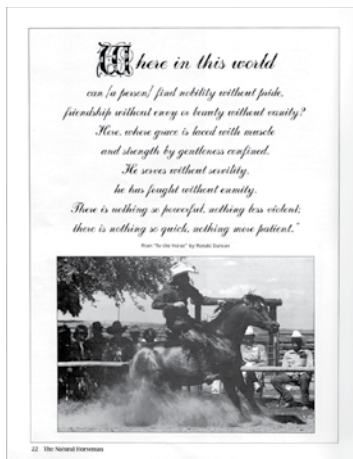
Salty came back to Pat. He was out of shape, seedy toed with deep sand cracks. It would be almost a year before he was able to be ridden. No matter the five year gap, the magic came back the moment Salty and Pat were reunited.

With Pat's career now on the road, Salty became an integral part of demonstrations and clinics for more than seven years. He performed in

hundreds of events before tens of thousands of people—sliding, spinning, roping, and cutting—mostly bridle-less. Salty partnered Pat at clinics, winding politely amongst participants and their horses without so much as a sideways look at the mares. He proved to people what could be done through true unity.

Since his time with Pat, Salty has sired sons and daughters in a private way. It was never Pat's intention to breed him commercially. Salty's death in June of 1995, was unexpected. It happened quickly, maybe even in his sleep. He was still performing some in January, but had been out to pasture with mares since November of 1994.

A solid gold stud. Calm, Smart, Brave, and Athletic. Mr. Charisma. A Horse-man. A legend and an honored partner, Salty Doc played a vital role with Pat in the popularization of Natural Horsemanship all over the world. 🐾

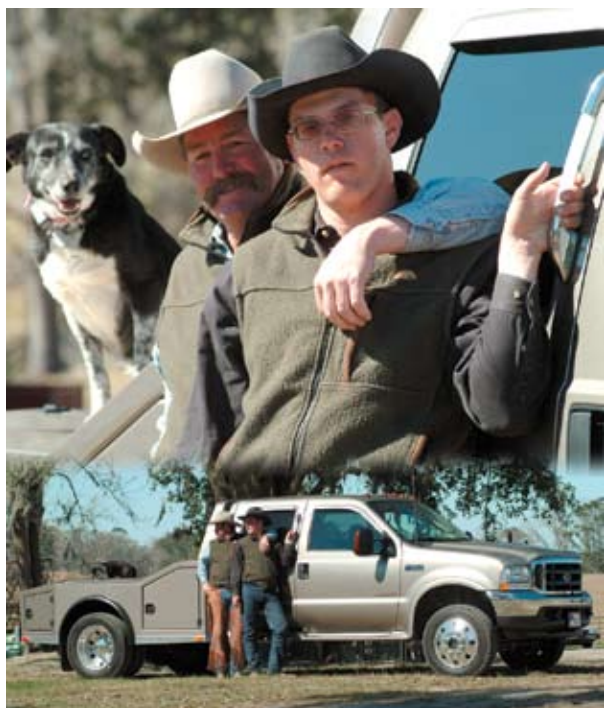


"Where in this world can [a person] find nobility without pride, friendship without envy or beauty without vanity? Here, where grace is laced with muscle and strength by gentleness confined. He serves without servility, he has fought without enmity. There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent; there is nothing so quick, nothing more patient."

From "To the Horse" by Ronald Duncan



See some special highlights of Pat and Salty as part of the flashback section on the February 2006 DVD, Issue number 15.



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Parelli bringing joy to the forgotten children of Africa

by Mirjam and Vicky Johnson

Parelli USA has donated all the necessary equipment to give 150 children in Mozambique the chance of a lifetime.

Ingela Larsson, 3-Star Parelli Instructor, set foot on African soil in late November 2005, with a team of two of her students. Three bareback pads, six basic kits, a Level 1 pack, Pat's new book, videos and DVDs supplied by Parelli USA, as well as saddles, hoof trimming and grooming equipment filled most of their luggage.

The destination was an Iris Ministries children's center in Pemba, Mozambique. 150 orphaned or previously abused children now call this center their home. In February 2005, dreams reached across two continents and the exciting project "Horses for Mozambique" was birthed. The purpose of "Horses for Mozambique," which is a registered charity, is to restore joy to the poorest of the poor, to bring restoration and mental and emotional healing to distraught and broken children. Parelli Natural Horsemanship will enable these children to enter into a pure and trusting relationship with the horse, based on love, language and leadership. They will get the opportunity to enjoy the reward of interacting with an animal that none had ever seen.

Making the dreams of these African children come true involved extensive research, strategic planning and lots of fund-raising. Before the horses could arrive, the basic infrastructure had to be built. What followed was a whirlwind of activity and a few miracles perfectly suited to overcome the obstacles that arose.

Imagine a stranger arriving at your door and asking you to construct a fence that is much taller, much straighter and far stronger than the house you live in? With only a ball of string, some sticks, rocks and a Swiss army knife, the team set out to construct a 50 foot round pen and a 30 x 60 meter paddock. The pen is made with posts from the strongest trees from the bush and rails of wide bamboo poles, all of which were donated through miraculous circumstances. The team had to develop the idea from looking at the construction of the Mozambican houses and buildings, then translating their ideas to the workers through drawing diagrams in the sandy soil. Ingela and the team initially welcomed the temperature change from cold and wet England to 40° Celsius until facing the reality of 12 hours per day constructing the round pen and paddock without rest and only a tree for shade. After two weeks it was up and ready.



During this time, Ingela started to teach the Iris staff Parelli Natural Horsemanship, as well as oversee the conversion of a truck to be able to transport a horse. The team drove 200 miles, borrowed a Thoroughbred horse named Ben, and brought the children their perfect Christmas present.

OFFERING CHILDREN A COMPLETELY NEW, EXCITING EXPERIENCE

When Ben arrived, the children responded with unbridled joy, enthusiasm and incredulity. He was beyond their wildest dreams.

The project brings a sense of worth to the children, and opens a whole new chapter to their lives; Ben has ignited a new flame in Pemba, he is providing a source of stimulation and focus for the children, which will bring many benefits for the future.

TEACHING CHILDREN RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO HORSE CARE

The children were taught that the needs of a horse are very different from the animals they are familiar with, such as the dog or the goat. They have the opportunity to cut grass or fetch water for the horse. By the way, the source is 300 yards away, and they carry the water buckets on their heads... We are confident as they learn about equine psychology: love, language and leadership instead of force, fear and intimidation in their interactions with the horse; that they will be preparing for the rest of their lives in terms of greater communication and leadership skills. This will open up their minds, helping them to adapt to further new situations and unfamiliar territory.

GIVING CHILDREN "SOMEONE" TO CARE FOR EMOTIONALLY

Although all of the children fell completely in love with the horse and would do anything for it, some found a deeper level. One boy, George, became so passionate about the horse, he was always around him. He has come from a very disturbed background, and with severe behavioral problems, he has caused the missionaries much trouble. Everybody saw the change in him. He had found his niche in loving the horse and looking out for it. On one occasion, he stepped into the round pen, hugged and kissed Ben and shouted out 'I just love him!'

TEACHING THEM RESPECT AND HOW TO EARN RESPECT

It was amazing to experience the natural respect these people held for the horse. He was not just an object to them, he was an amazing gift. Although none of the children, Mozambican staff or villagers had ever seen a horse before, and all wanted to get closer and touch him, they all gathered around his coral yet didn't push into him. As a vital tool for their lives, the horses will teach the children to respect themselves. It is hard to contemplate, but these children have nothing, absolutely nothing except the clothes they wear and a spare set in a drawer by their bed. Through the 'Horses for Mozambique' project and learning to communicate with the horse, they will build a level of respect for themselves and for those around them. It was truly fantastic to watch as they all approached Ben allowing him to smell the back of their hand and then stroking him. The children all learned by watching our actions and then copied and repeated them. No child ever went to pat him!

TEACHING THEM HONESTY

By using the Seven Games, and interacting with the horse daily, the children became more aware of the consequences of their actions. We know that horses never lie, but this will be a huge lesson for the children to learn. Once they have this, it will be invaluable to them in all aspects of their lives.

The project is still very young, but the first stage has been hugely successful. The borrowed horse, Ben, will return to his owner in mid-January. Ingela and crew are busy planning and organizing stage two: locating horses to buy, and arranging their transport from South Africa to Pemba. It's the journey of a lifetime and it has only just begun... 🐾

Updates and more information about the "Horses for Mozambique" project can be found at www.kingdomhorse.com.



Pat Parelli
Born March 17
to Doris and
Jack Parelli in
California, U.S.A.

1954

*Linda born in
Singapore (1958).*

6 yrs old...
Becomes "horse crazy"
playing with his Dad's
boxing manager's horses.

1960

9 yrs old...
Gets first horse
for 9th birthday.

1963

*Linda begins riding lessons
in Singapore (1966).*

14 yrs old...

Spends summer with Freddie Ferreira ('68-'69-'70). Is introduced to the true nature of horses; wild animals. Freddie was a government trapper. Pat worked and learned with him.

1968

17 yrs old...
Begins rodeo career,
goes to Rodeo School.
Meets John Hawkins,
rodeo mentor.

1971

18 yrs old...

Receives college scholarship
on the basis of Rodeo talent.
Wins Bareback Rookie of the
Year Rodeo award.

1972

20 yrs old...

Begins training horses
professionally. Establishes
first training center in
Fresno, California.

1974

21 yrs old...

Begins training mules to get
attention from competitive
owners and trainers. Founds
American Mule Association.

1975

22 yrs old...

Meets major mentors
Tony Ernst (martial arts),
Troy Henry (master
horseman). American
Mule Association incor-
porates. Founds Clovis
Mule Days event ('76-'77-
'78) largest by purse,
prizes and contestants.

1976

23 yrs old...

Begins working/
learning at Troy
Henry's place
(stayed 5 years).

1977

35 yrs old...
Meets Linda
at a Clinic.

1989

*Linda
meets Pat.*

33 yrs old...

First Australia trip
(with Dr. Miller).
First TV exposure in
Australia. Meets
Fredie Knie, Swiss
Circus Master.

1987

*Linda gets back
into horses. Buys
Regalo, the horse
that leads Linda
to meeting Pat.*

37 yrs old...

Pat and Linda coin "Natural
Horsemanship" name. Form
Parelli USA & Parelli Australia
corps. Western Horseman
approaches to publish book.

1990

*Linda starts
organizing
Parelli Australia.*

38 yrs old...

Presents at Australian
Horsemen's Congress
(meets Capt. Mark Philips
and Andrew Hoy).

1991

1992

39 yrs old...

First Instructor Program
begins. Linda comes to live
with Pat. Start living and
touring on the road.
Launches book: "Natural
Horsemanship by Pat Parelli."

1993

40 yrs old...

TV debut on Don
Burke's "Burke's
Backyard" in Australia.

1994

41 yrs old...

Pat and Linda marry in Lake Tahoe, California.
Super horse, Casper. International Agencies
develop 1994/95. Purchase property in
Colorado: Parelli Center established.

1995

42 yrs old...

First season of courses at the
Colorado Parelli Center.

1996

43 yrs old...

Meets
Mark Weiler.

1997

24 yrs old...
First competition: world championship Reined Cow Horse event, Reno, at the Snaffle Bit Futurity (wins the go-round, retires with injury).

25 yrs old...
Super horse, Salty Doc appears (major horse influence).

26 yrs old...
Almost killed on a bucking horse. Super horse Sparky arrives. Creates a stir entering a mule in the Snaffle Bit Futurity World Championship, Reno (a reined cow horse event). The mule was called Thumper. Hate mail came in droves (from owners/trainers of expensive horses beaten by a mule!). Pat invited back the next year, not to compete but to demonstrate.

27 yrs old...
First major bridless demo with Thumper at the Snaffle Bit Futurity, Reno.
Birth of daughter, Marlene. **Gives first horsemanship lesson to a student.**
Meets Dr. R.M. Miller through bridless demo with Thumper at Bishop Mule Days.

28 yrs old...
Death of major mentor Troy Henry. First Western Horseman magazine article (authored by R.M. Miller). Gives first seminars/clinics.

29 yrs old...
Birth of son, Caton. Establishes first horsemanship center, Clements, California. Meets major mentors Tom Dorrance, Ray Hunt and Ronnie Willis. Super horse, Scamp. First clinic with Ray Hunt (until 1990). Begins learning from Ronnie Willis (until 1987).

31 yrs old...
First Parelli video tapes for sale. Begins spending time with Tom Dorrance (until 1993).

30 yrs old...
Begins traveling to train horses/solve problems: "have help will travel." Bridless demo at L.A. Olympics. Official Equine Behaviorist at L.A. Olympics (with Dr. R.M. Miller).

32 yrs old...
Invitation to speak at AAEP conference. First clinics and demos in Europe (Switzerland). Begins manufacturing equipment.

48 yrs old...

New Star System for Parelli Professionals. Names Mark Wieler President and CEO. Invitation to be honorary chairman of French School of riding with light hands with Michel Henriquet and Col. Christian Carde. U.S. Mounted police names Parelli official training program. Weekly TV shows on RFD-TV. Florida Parelli Center opens. Linda finds Allure (new horse from France). Invitation from top U.S. race trainer to help with difficult race horses. Invitation to address Thoroughbred Breeders Assoc. in New York. Names Ronnie Willis Parelli Master Horse Specialist. Brings super horse, Magic to USA.

Linda finds Remmer.

45 yrs old...
Reunion with Tom Dorrance. Major TV exposure: A&E program, "In the Company of Horses." Reunion with Ronnie Willis. Purchases super horse, Magic in Australia. Launches Savvy System Level 1.

46 yrs old...
Invitation to ride at Tom Dorrance benefit (with Ray Hunt & Ronnie Willis). National Geographic Mustang TV special. Invitation to speak at international symposium hosted by Le Cadre Noir, France. Releases Savvy System Level 2. Launches Parelli Collection clothing.

47 yrs old...
Mark Weiler becomes acting president. Launches Savvy System Level 3.

49 yrs old...
Launches Savvy Club. Significant work with prominent Thoroughbred breeding farms in Kentucky. Colorado Department of Education approves the Colorado University Program as an occupational school. FFE (French Federation Equestrian) incorporates Parelli education program. Invitation from Great Britain's Royal Equerry and Household Cavalry to give a private session before Her Majesty the Queen of England.

50 yrs old...

New Level 1 Program launches. Relationship begins with Spanish Olympic riders. U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. has Pat play with/train a vicious stallion. Launches book: "Raise Your Hand if You Love Horses."

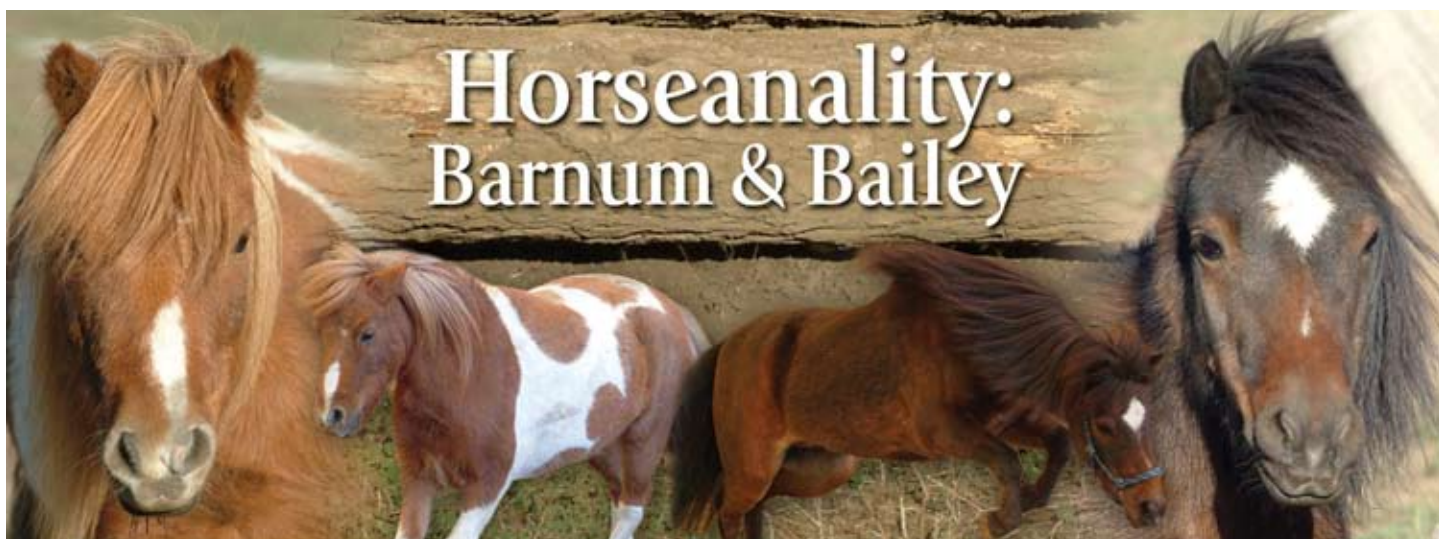
51 yrs old...
10,000th Savvy Club subscriber. Invitation to appear on CBS Early Show for "Make a Wish" surprise. New faculty initiative at Parelli Centers launches. New Level 2 Program launches. New Horse Behavior, Liberty and Fluidity courses launch.

52 yrs old...
New Australia office launches. **25 years since first lesson.**

We would like to congratulate Pat on 25 years of teaching and a lifetime of achievements!

March 2006 marks the 25th Anniversary of the first horsemanship lesson taught by Pat.

25th Anniversary



by Cynthia McFarland

Sometimes you see a horse and rider who are in such harmony that you can only think of them as a team. While most riders aspire to this kind of partnership, some horse owners sabotage this possibility from the start by selecting a horse whose spirit isn't compatible with their own. There's nothing necessarily "wrong" with either horse or human individually, but put them together and their personalities just don't mesh.

Each horse has his own unique personality, or as Pat describes it, "horseanality," which is based on three things: innate characteristics, learned behavior, and spirit.

Think of why you want a horse in the first place. If you just want a buddy to have fun with and enjoy riding down the trail, you don't need an energetic, hot-blooded horse. On the other hand, if eventing or show jumping is your cup of tea, you'll probably be frustrated by a horse with a laid-back, nonchalant attitude.

"I try to get people to realize their horse's innate characteristics and spirit," says Pat.

"We're responsible for our horses' learned behavior, but nature is responsible for their innate characteristics and spirit."

*Don't try to change the horse's spirit!
Instead, find a horse whose spirit and innate
characteristics are suitable for you.*

If you've seen Pat and Linda on tour, chances are you've already seen Barnum and Bailey in action. These two tiny horses are both miniatures, but their "horseanality" couldn't be more different.

Barnum, who sports colorful pinto markings, is a mellow soul, laid back and calm. Ask him to move forward and he might move into an easy trot. Bailey, however, is much more high-spirited; Pat calls him a fireplug! Ask him to move forward and he's apt to leap into a fast canter. They are both playful and willing, despite their very different attitudes.

"Barnum and Bailey are two of my favorite friends," says Pat. "I was never a fan of miniature horses until I found these two little guys. When I first moved to Colorado I saw them in a pasture. They were both stallions, about two to two-and-a-half years old. I just fell in love with them."

Of course, Pat went on to prove that Barnum and Bailey could learn just as well as their larger equine relatives. He might not be able to ride the miniatures, but that doesn't stop him from having a blast playing the Seven Games with them. Jumping is one of their favorite things to do on a long line and it's not unusual to see Barnum or Bailey jump an obstacle taller than their withers. Imagine if the average horse did this!

Just don't make the mistake of calling them ponies. Miniature horses are actually horses that have been genetically altered through long years of breeding the tiniest horses to each other.

"They're a man made creation," says Pat. 🐾





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Raise Your Voice If You Love Parelli

Some of our members on the Savvy Club Web Forum recently got together and shared their stories, poems and pictures about Parelli. They are interested in publishing this collection as a book and have approached Parelli to take on the project. In response, we are publishing a few selected excerpts here for your enjoyment. Please take a few minutes to visit www.parellisavvyclub.com and participate in our poll regarding this project. (The poll will only be available through the month of May.) You can also read more stories in the Savvy Club Forum (accessed through the website above).

SUGGESTED CHAPTER TITLES/SECTIONS

- Normal vs. Natural (describing how we see the Normal or Traditional way of working with horses as opposed to the Natural way)
 - From 'Whip' to 'Carrot Stick' (why and how we converted to Parelli)
 - Savvy from the Heart (Savvy Stories)
 - Of Dogs and Horse poop (you can take this literally or write more sensitive stories of your other animals interacting with your horses)
 - Bloopers and Blunders (hopefully no explanation needed)
 - Looking Back (what are your biggest accomplishments?)
 - Moving Forward (no explanation needed)
 - The Future of Parelli (Parelli youth corner)
 - You know you do Parelli when... (you know what to put there)
- And, as always, Pictures and Poetry.

Deep In My Thoughts

by Kasea C. Hutchins

A leap in the air
You give me an innocent stare
Bare
Of all surrounding troubles
You kick double
A clumsy stumble
And with a snicker
I chase you a bit quicker
And you gallop off with a nicker
Seeing you happy brings joy to my heart
Seeing your beauty takes the breath from my lungs
The air leaves with a lunge
The air I need to breathe
The breath I need to live
The life I need to see you with my eyes
You're deep in my thoughts
And I always get caught
Day-dreaming of that playful nip
While from my coffee I take a sip
And think
As I drink
And talk
About your walk
With a friend
And we tend
To think of the joy
You bring when you play
With that little mare whom is bay
And every day
Or as often as we may
We all ride together
Even in the bad weather
As we get bonds that will last forever

Moving Forward

We rode today for the first time and I do mean the first time. I had saddled Miss Mo a few times before today and she did well. I'd put weight in the stirrups before, but this was the first time really in the saddle. It felt WONDERFUL. This is from a girl who lived on horses growing up, would go on trail rides myself and not come back all day as a teenager. This was only my 3rd ride in about 20 years and we did it. It actually went well with me, but not with my dad.

I saddled her and she was a little antsy, but did a lot of Friendly Game and took the saddle off and then put it back on and she was fine. We then played some Games and sat on the fence post for a few minutes with her before I got on. We did a lot of friendly and she was really left brain. In fact, she was licking my jeans and rubbing against my face. She was closing her eyes when I pet her and yawning, so I knew we were good to go. (Sometimes it's hard for me to believe it's the same horse that used to be so aggressive toward me). My dad came in to help me because he just couldn't understand riding in just the halter and lead, so he wanted to make sure I was ok. Part of me could see where he was coming from and why he was concerned.

So, here I am, 36 years old with my father leading me around like I'm on a pony ride. I didn't think Miss Mo would react to him the way she did. She was mad at him bossing her around. Miss alpha came out in her truest form and she was pinning her ears at him and trying to bite him. I was leaning forward telling her it was ok. The whole time she was fine with me and when I'd talk to her, she'd calm down. I did everything to keep my dad calm, while trying to keep Miss Mo from biting him. Then I asked him to give me the lead

rope and he did, but she was following him around like she wanted to chase him out of her pasture. She wanted him away from her and me. Then, I got nervous and I got off. I took the rope from him and really tried to see what kind of mind she was in toward me and she went completely left brained when she saw me—totally relaxed and calm. When I took the rope I expected to have to really deal with right brained behavior and was planning those effective phase 4s in my head, but it went away immediately when she saw me. I still had her circle a little and made her listen and do some of the games, but she stayed left brained and relaxed. We played Friendly Game and I unsaddled her.

One big thing I noticed was in my riding. Even though it's been awhile, it was drilled in my head as a kid growing up Western. Taking riding lessons and running barrels, I was taught to sit up straight and more on your crotch. While I was on today, at first I was sitting forward trying to calm Miss Mo down, then I realized I needed to try to find my Balance Point, so I sat back and got situated. I heard the hugest sigh from Miss Mo. She still acted up towards my dad, but I realized the difference that Balance Point makes.

—Lisa Schuler

photo courtesy of Lisa Schuler

I LOVE
PARELLI!



Savvy From the Heart

Ellen and I waited for the big rig to show up at about 8pm tonight. Her sister's horse is coming here to live the natural life. The way the barn entrance is set up, a big rig like this 18 wheeler cannot turn in to come all the way down to the barn, so we have to unload the horse at the street and walk him a quarter mile or so down the driveway to the barn. The ramp comes down, and the driver says, "You want to come up and get him?"

"Sure," I said, "let me grab my halter and lead." "Oh, he's got a halter, and a lead rope." "Okay..." So we walk up into the rig, where this very large, 16.3 hand Warmblood is standing quietly in a box stall. Jack is his name. The driver clips his lead on him and hands him to me. We turn around, walk down a ramp inside the trailer and then try to turn left and go down the ramp to the pavement. We stop. We go forward, back up to change the angle, go forward half way down the ramp (this horse does not bend), and then leap down the second half of the ramp. He pawed are on the ground. Without two front shoes. He pawed the entire 10 hour trailer ride down from Boston and got them off. Good thing, because he would have slid quite a ways on the pavement the way he came off that ramp. The driver tries to take Jack from me. He has his hand wrapped tight around that thick leather halter, and is trying to move the chain so he can put it over his nose.

"Please don't," I say.
"Oh no, this horse needs a chain."

"No, he doesn't."
"Yes he does," the shipper insists.

"No. Ellen, will you hand me my halter and lead? I want to switch."
"No, wait, that horse will drag you on the ground all the way down the road if you don't put a chain on him."

"No, he won't, let's just switch halters. Could you please let go of him. I've got him." Ok, the halters are switched. Jack is Tense! His head is up, the whites of his eyes are showing, every single muscle in his body looks like it is ready to contract and explode. Bam! Bam! And then, nothing... his eyes look dead, glazed over. Like he wants to react to everything, but can't. Nothing. "Okay, let's see if you know I am attached to the end of this lead rope... wiggle, wiggle, WIGGLE... BACK UP!"

"Oh there you are!" his eyes seem to say as his front feet slide back, then they are back to glazed over. "Okay, cross your feet over, move your hiney, MOVE!" "Oh, are you down there?" he asks me again. "Ok, lets walk down the driveway." We are on a loose

lead, he has a calm walk, this is good. "Wiggle, wiggle, don't pass me."
"Oh yeah, forgot you were there."
So we bypass the barn and go straight to the round pen. Jack needs to stretch his legs after that long ride. We are walking, walking, going through the gate. The train goes by a few blocks away.

"OH, MY GOD! WHAT IS THAT???"
But Jack doesn't move. He looks like he's gonna explode, but again, nothing. Talk about a robot horse. This poor guy has been in a dressage barn with only one hour of turn out a day, and they wonder why he either explodes on them, or gets so stressed that he just can't handle any pressure, and just lays down!! "Oh, I'm crossing my feet over. Hey, how did you do that?" Jack is asking all sorts of questions, but his focus doesn't last very long.

Okay, into the round pen we go. I ask him to circle for me. Just at the trot. He starts to stretch his legs a little bit...trot, trot, trot, zombie, robot... this horse's eye looks dead!

"Nothing exciting here," his body seems to say. "Oh? THERE'S GRASS HERE!!!!!!!"
Jack takes a few bites, then continues to trot, trot, trot.

"Can you stop and go the other way? Great, thanks!"
Trot, trot, trot, grass, trot, trot.

"Okay, that's enough. I'll turn you loose to roll and play a little while I go get your stall ready."

"Can you come to the gate so we can go inside? Yes? Wonderful! Can you squeeze through the gate? Great. Ok, let's go into the barn. Let's do it on a loose lead. Wiggle, wiggle, don't pass me." I put him into his stall for the night,

there is a friend for him across the way... paw, Paw, PAW. "Gee, I wonder how those shoes came off?"

"Oh, there's some water." He circles the stall, checking out his accommodations. "Paw, Paw, PAW."

I close the barn doors just in case; there are dutch doors that a horse could go over if he really wanted to. He's got hay, water, and a handful of grain.

The barn doors are closed. "Goodnight Jack... a beautiful new world awaits you in the morning."

Kelly Meister
Level 2/3
Round Hill, Virginia

"You Know You Do Parelli When..."

- Your dog does HQ yields better than your horse.
- You "drive" other people out of your way instead of saying "excuse me..." and it works!
- You sold all your normal tack to pay for Natural equipment.
- Your horse runs to you in the pasture.
- All the other horses in the pasture run to you!
- You put your "ears" back and other horses move out of your way.
- You wash your Parelli equipment more often than you wash your clothes.
- Your fears and frustrations disappear.

~lone-plainman~ Parelli Level 2 student.
Proud owner of CLOUD - 1999 QH/Paint gelding.

THIS IS MY
DAUGHTER,
DARBY WITH
ROGER, HER MINI
DONKEY.

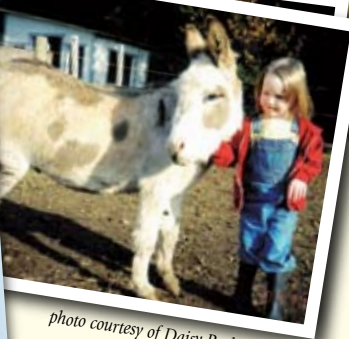


photo courtesy of Daisy Rocket

THAT WAS A FUN DAY!
SENIOR PICTURES!



photo courtesy of Adrienne



photo courtesy of Lacy

TAKEN AT A CLINIC AT
GINA TORRELL'S IN APRIL 2005



I love my cheeky Arab—she's not afraid to tell me what she thinks! Thanks to Parelli I'm learning what to do about it.

As I look back over my last few articles in this magazine, I'm forced to see that Escada and I have really come a long way. So why, after 10 weeks away from my precious mare, was our first session together such a bomb? And not just that, where I'd been for most of that 10 weeks was at the Florida Parelli Center videoing the new courses!

I'll tell you why—Confidence. I've learned that confidence is a great thing, but like all great things, it too requires moderation.

The new courses taught by Linda in the Fall of 2005 were phenomenal. Linda was 'on fire,' Pat was extraordinary, you've probably heard about it. If you saw the last issue of *Savvy Times*, you might have read my excited ramblings about how it "changed my life."

What changed was how it helped me find confidence—confidence to be myself, confidence to take on challenging tasks, and confidence to dream bigger than I thought I could. That was great and still is, but when I brought my own, new, exuberant self-confidence back home and into the paddock, Escada told me what she thought about it!

Here's what went down...

Session 1: After 10 weeks away from my horse, I grabbed my Level 2 Success Map, boldly plucked Lesson Cards from it (shown on opposite page), put them on my carabiner clip, flicked through my Level 2 Arrow Cards as a quick reminder, then headed off to the paddock.

I remembered to stop when Escada saw me. I called her name and she reached her head high to look at me with ears forward. That felt good. She remembered me!

I entered the paddock, let her approach me, she touched me first. I started rubbing her with the halter and line... she turned her butt and ran off! All I could see was her behind. If she had the digits to do it, I think she would have made a rude sign at me.

"Hmmm... How interesting," I thought (at least I remembered that Savvy Arrow).

What was she doing? I replayed the running off action in my head to try to assess if it was right brain unconfidence or left brain dominance. It was definitely left brain because it was slow, purposeful and calculated. The other giveaway was that she didn't run far, and when she stopped she gave me a look like, "Oh yeh? Whatcha gonna do 'bout it?"

Student: Vonni [Yvonne Wilcox]

Horse: Escada [Kenlyn Muscata]

Age/Breed: 6-year-old Bay Arabian Mare

Levels achieved: Level 2 on the ground through self-assessment with the Pocket Guides.

Levels Goal: Used to be: To complete Level 3 on the ground before trying to achieve Levels 2 and 3 in the saddle.

Now: To go as far in our relationship as we can and enjoy every little step of the journey

In the last five issues of Savvy Times, Yvonne has shared her journey through Level 2 skills, bucking issues, and what it was like to have a Fluidity lesson with Linda on Linda's Warmblood, Remmer.

This issue we hear the good, the bad, and the ugly results of what happened when Yvonne and Escada were reunited after a 10-week separation in Fall-Winter of 2005.

What did I do that made her leave me? I looked at my Level 2 Arrow Cards and found the "Reading your horse" card:

- ▶ **Right Brain** (fearful/unconfident) needs **consistency**.
- ▶ **Left Brain** (confident/dominant) behavior needs **variety**.

"She needs variety!" I thought. I decided to mix it up a bit and crept slowly towards Zone 5, tossed a pebble at it, then walked away. Her ears came forward, she turned to me, but she didn't want to come to me. (The last time she didn't want to come to me was about three years ago!)

"Hmmm... How interesting."

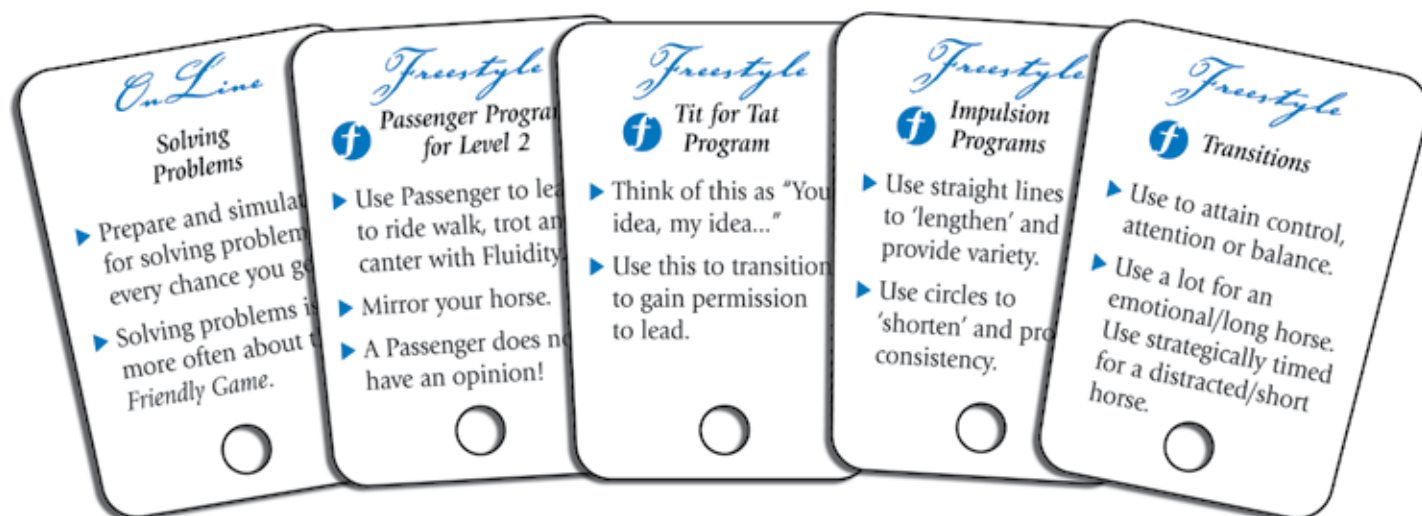
This was where it would have been good to also have remembered Level 2 Savvy Arrow 10: "Oh Boy!" It was attached to the carabiner on my hip, but alas, I did not remember it or look at it. Instead I became FRUSTRATED!

"Okay Escada, you know the drill, and you like me, remember? You've whinnied for me. You've thrilled me with our connection at Liberty. We've come so far together. What's wrong with you?"

THE SHAME FILES: I picked up my stick. I drove Zone 4 away. I pushed her. She came to me. "Ohh, good girl," I said. I put the halter on her and started playing games On Line.

As we 'played' On Line, I became acutely

These are the Lesson Cards I chose for my first session after 10 weeks away from Escada...



This is the Card I should have chosen if I'd paid proper attention to my Level 2 Savvy Arrows!



aware of the expression on her face. She was going through the motions, being a good little responsive, obedient follower. Her ears weren't back, but she wasn't engaged. There was a definite look of "Why do I have a dope on a rope?" on her face.

Here's where I had changed my expectations as a result of watching Linda's courses... I used to be satisfied if my horse did what I asked with Phase 1 suggestions. But now that wasn't good enough. I wanted her to LIKE me!

I stopped. I took off the halter. I gave her a little bit of a rub and scratch, and then went home. Pat says "Do your feeling during the day and your thinking at night." So I went home and thought about it.

On the way home, it crossed my mind that it would be much easier if all I cared about was slapping a saddle on her and riding, just like I used to do with my horse as a kid. But I've experienced the high of what it's like to have Escada want to be with me, to like me, and since I know what that feels like, there's no going back.

Night time came, lots of thinking occurred, lots of re-reading of Program Guide 1 from Level 2, and I came up with what I thought was a plan: Get more interesting for her!

Session 2: The next day.

I entered the paddock with my plan to deal with my "Left Brain Horse."

I tried to be interesting... I tried to be provocative... Next thing I knew, Escada was stirring up the rest of the herd (four horses), and they all went right brain and started running aimlessly around the paddock. Not only did she still not want to be with me, but now she was also right brain and freaking out.

Luckily I didn't try to 'push' the issue again. I just decided to sit down on a feed bucket and do some more thinking.

What *was* I doing wrong?

About 40 minutes went by, and Escada eventually started to mosey toward me. I called her name casually and to my surprise she came over.

I stayed sitting on the bucket and massaged and scratched any part of her body she put near me. This went on for almost an hour, and she didn't want to leave me!

It finally dawned on me what was going on, and what had happened from the first moment I pulled out my Success Map before Session 1.

I was so imbued by the self-confidence I acquired during my time in Florida, but because I didn't have interactions with my horse like the students had each day—which would keep my ego in check—I pretty much behaved like a predator. I became too goal oriented. I was all about what I wanted to achieve with my horse right away and I forgot about what Escada might think.

I had become ferociously ACTION oriented and I took all that with me into the paddock. Escada read this and showed me clearly it was not going to be acceptable.

I also realized that I did the same thing to my team when I returned to the office: 'token' Friendly Game and then all business.

The interesting thing is that my co-worker, Dave, said to me after Session 1 with Escada, "Do you think you should spend Undemanding Time with her first?"

My reply at the time was, "Nah, we've done so much of that in the past..."

I've since apologized to Dave and my team!

The good news is that I just had Session 3 with Escada the other day, and I'm back on track. I called her, she came to me with a "happy to see you" expression, and we played. I can't wait for Session 4! 🐾

Begin your dream.



Parelli Level 1

Safety • Communication • Relationship • Leadership

Live your dream.



Parelli Level 2

Confidence • Fun • Independence • Imagination

"These days it is so hard to know what to do for our horses in terms of their best care, and I take very seriously my role in introducing to you the things we know work. They are what we have been using with proven results that you can trust."
—Linda Parelli

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